Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Ninth Round of Arab-Israeli Peace Talks Begin

Syria's al-'Allaf Views Talks

NC2704101393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chairman of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador: In a few hours, the 9th round of bilateral peace talks between the Arab and Israeli delegations will begin in a true spirit of optimism that there could be progress after over four months of stoppage. Is there real optimism?

[Al-'Allaf] We cannot say there is absolute optimism; it is more expectation than optimism. There is no sense in this round ending in the same way as earlier rounds, especially after the obstacles and difficulties you mentioned. The Arabs have tried very hard to prove they remain committed to the objectives of the process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The Arabs withstood many hardships to come to Washington. So, everyone expects Israel—the party that has obstructed progress—to change its negotiating approach and seize this peace opportunity provided by the Arabs and by the conference sponsors. Any new setback or disappointment in this round will have more serious repercussions for the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The optimism everyone feels is inspired by recent statements by Israeli officials. Do you expect the Israeli delegation to engage in this round with a different approach?

[Al-'Allaf] I speak in general terms. Those most concerned with these statements are the Palestinian brothers. I do not believe there is full satisfaction with statements to date, because they fall short of expectations. But we can view this as a beginning. Israel has claimed it will offer more, as far as essential issues are concerned, once the peace talks resume. We hope that Israel will honor these promises practically, because this is the only way to make progress. As I have said, the alternative is very bad, because it would undermine the peace process. Progress must be achieved on every track. To allow for such progress, the Israeli delegation must change the tactics and approaches adopted in other rounds. This is what we hope for.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said Israel will not discuss withdrawal from the Golan Heights unless the Syrians explain their vision of peace. Can you tell us about the Syrian position during this round?

[Al-'Allaf] If Israel continues to say that, then it has not changed its old maneuvers. Represented by its highest leadership, Syria has clearly announced that it is prepared for full peace in return for full withdrawal. Israel has made no statement to reciprocate the positive Syrian statement. This announcement gives Israel no excuse to avoid declaring its full willingness to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and its readiness to withdraw completely. Resorting to maneuvers by asking what we mean by full peace shows that Israel is insisting on the maneuvers that obstructed peace talks over several rounds and for several months. As I told you, any progress would depend on a real change in the Israeli approach and performance [last word in English] during the negotiations to begin today.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are reports of direct contacts between Syria and Israel outside the Washington talks. What about them?

[Al-'Allaf] This is not true. Like many reports that circulate now and then, these aim to create suspicion among Arabs and confuse the negotiating delegations. Syria sees no reason to hide any step it takes. We seek a lawful, just, and comprehensive peace. We meet the Israelis face to face here without any third party present. Why would we need secret meetings or meetings on the side outside the framework of the peace process? This is ridiculous. No third party attends the talks between the Arab delegations and Israel. Israel has even objected to U.S. participation in the talks. Why would they fabricate such things, which only try to paint the situation as though a conspiracy is being hatched or as if secret deals are being agreed upon? This is not true.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is known that inter-Arab coordination is important before any round of talks. This coordination took place in Damascus recently. What about coordination among the Arab delegations in Washington?

[Al-'Allaf] Frankly speaking, there has been almost full Arab coordination from the outset. Unexpected difficulties can arise, but coordination among delegation heads and members is undertaken daily by permanent committees. Delegation heads hold regular meetings twice a week. As you said, coordination meetings among Arab foreign ministers, particularly the recent meeting in Damascus, have consolidated this Arab coordination. Arab delegations are required to further enhance coordination. We do not use coordination to serve purposes that challenge the peace process. The opposite is more accurate. The conference sponsors have praised this coordination as reflecting Arab seriousness. This coordination is for the sake of peace. We are determined to have tighter coordination in this round because of the major success reflected by the Arab foreign ministers coordination meeting in Damascus last week.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you. May God guide you to success.

Peace Talks Begin

TA2704151993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Washington peace talks opened about an hour ago. Arriving at the State Department building, Muwaffaq al-Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that he hopes the talks would yield some result to justify the effort made to perpetuate the peace process. Answering a question on whether Syria is willing to make full peace with Israel, he said that principles must be agreed upon first, and only later will the details be discussed.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israel delegation for talks with Syria, said in response that he rejects this formula. According to him, progress will be impossible unless the Syrians define clearly what they mean by the term peace.

The talks with Jordan and Lebanon are also currently being held in Washington, and the talks with the Palestinians will begin in some five hours.

No Change Seen in Israeli Stand

JN2704210393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral peace talks in Washington, has stated that the Syrian delegation did not sense any change in the Israeli position during the first day of the ninth round of the talks, which began today. In a statement to reporters, he hoped for a more serious change in the Israeli side's position during the upcoming meting of this round, noting that it is natural not to expect great surprises on the first day of the round of talks. Asked if the Syrian delegation has offered anything new during today's meeting, al-'Allaf said that anything new should come from the Israelis. Al-'Allaf explained that Syria has presented a comprehensive document containing all the elements needed for establishing a just and comprehensive peace, in addition to its other public commitments. He added that in return, Israel did not make similar commitments. He affirmed that the Israeli side is required to prove a similar trend toward the peace process by accepting the Syrian document, considering it is the only working document on the Syrian-Israeli track. The ninth round of bilateral peace talks on the Middle East began in Washington today. The peace talks resumed after a suspension of four months as result of the obstacles the Israeli Government had placed between the end of the past round up to the beginning of this round.

First Day of Talks Detailed

TA2804051793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] At the resumption of peace talks in Washington, Israel has set out its approach to Palestinian self-rule and conditions in the territories. Israel's chief negotiator Elyaqim Rubinstein said after the opening session that if substantive negotiations could take place there was great potential for progress. Israeli spokesman Yosi Gal said Israel was prepared to consider transferring to the Palestinians a wide range of powers even before conclusion of the negotiations. On the Palestinian side, there were expressions of frustration and a veiled threat of a walkout. Connie Lonn reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] The first day of the talks ended with posturing and disagreements. The Palestinians and the Israelis met in the evening after all the other delegations had their turn. Afterwards Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi raised the specter of an early walkout. He claimed Israel presented no new proposals.

['Abd-al-Shafi] We cannot really continue to be engaged in a negotiating process that continues without any results and we cannot assume such a responsibility, so we have to know in a short time where things stand and whether there will be enough to allow for progress and advance in the negotiating process.

[Lonn] For its part, Israeli officials tried to be conciliatory. Spokesman Yosi Gal welcomed Faysal al-Husayni to the negotiations and wished him well.

[Gal] We wish him success and welcome him to the negotiations. Let me by way of conclusion say that those who truly seek peace will find generous Israeli negotiators and forthcoming Israeli proposals, and a willingness on the part of Israel to go far for the sake of peace.

[Lonn] In the midst of the talks, Secretary of State Warren Christopher held an unprecedented meeting with eight Israeli delegates and two from each of the Arab delegations. The parties refused to shake hands in front of the cameras. The Syrian delegate said: We are here for more important matters than hand shakes. Secretary Christopher called the decision to return to the peace table correct and courageous. [passage omitted]

In the talks with the other delegations, the atmosphere was better than with the Palestinians. The meetings with the Syrians were said to be conducted in a good atmosphere, hopefully creating good momentum for the future, but the Israeli and Syrian teams agreed little was accomplished the first day. Ambassador Rabinovich said Syria had been rather vague in its peace offer, but there is a mutual agreement to move forward.

The other talks with the Lebanese and the Jordanians were called good and positive. The Israeli-Jordanian ones discussed the most specific subjects. [end recording]

Christopher Meets Delegation Heads

JN2804052893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has held an unprecedented meeting in Washington with the heads of Arab and Israeli delegations to the peace

talks. Mr. Christopher said in the meeting it is high time to set aside procedural issues and get down to the core and substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Christopher urged the negotiators to indulge in the essence of negotiations, not the formalities.

The first session of the ninth round of Middle East bilaterals has ended after three hours of discussions. The Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said there was no indicator that the Israeli intransigent position has been changed. He stressed that the Israelis refuse to adhere to the same principles and rules to which Syria is committed. The Israeli chief negotiator said little has been achieved during the session, adding that the atmosphere was positive.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian and Israeli teams held their session of peace talks late last night. At a press conference following the talks, Israeli spokesman Yosi Gal promised to offer the Palestinians more flexible proposals. Gal said Israel is prepared to discuss the transfer of some powers to the Palestinians even before the conclusion of the peace talks. Gal added that Israel is ready to relinquish to Palestinians the authority on land, water, police affairs, human rights, and economic matters.

Al-'Allaf on Christopher Meeting

JN2804073093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Washington—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the U.S. president's representative in the peace talks, has received the heads of all delegations attending the bilateral Middle East peace negotiations. The deputy chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended in his capacity as representative of the Russian cosponsor of the peace talks.

During this meeting, Christopher welcomed, on behalf of U.S. President Bill Clinton and the Russian cosponsor of the peace process, the return of the delegations to the peace talks. He touched on the progress of the peace talks since the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference, noting that a long time has been spent on procedural issues. Furthermore, he maintained, almost five months were invested in issues that kept all parties away from the peace process. He added: It is high time to focus on substance and to handle substantive issues, such as territory, peace, and security.

Christopher expressed his conviction that there is a genuine opportunity for resolving the Middle East conflict. He affirmed that the United States and the Russian cosponsor will do their best to render the peace talks a success. He reiterated the United States' determination to play the role of a full partner in the talks to advance the peace talks so as to make 1993 the year of progress in the talks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The heads of the participating delegations spoke during the meeting. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, thanked the United States for taking the initiative by calling for this meeting, particularly since the initiative is well-timed. Al-'Allaf affirmed the need to make progress during the current ninth round of talks, since failure to make substantive progress could affect the future of the entire peace process.

Al-'Allaf added: From the outset, Syria has shown seriousness in its efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The Israeli side must demonstrate the political will and seriousness required to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. We do not want this meeting to be merely ceremonial. Indeed, we want to see emphasis on substantive issues in the peace process.

Al-'Allaf urged the cosponsors of the peace process to help remove obstacles whenever the peace process runs into difficulties. Al-'Allaf pointed out that hopes regarding the peace process have faded after one and a half years have passed without any progress. He underscored the need for this round of peace talks to make progress toward a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. [passage omitted on earlier al-'Allaf statement covered by second referent item]

For his part, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington bilateral peace talks, yesterday hoped that the talks would eventually produce a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement. Shammas added: We are willing to engage in substantive discussions on basic issues.

Meanwhile, Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, yesterday met with some members of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks. He reviewed with them some political and procedural issues pertaining to the peace process.

Rabinovich on Talks With Syria

TA2804070093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Arye Golan; "after the talks with the Syrian delegation," 27 April—recorded]

[Text] [Rabinovich] The entire meeting was held in a down to earth and even relaxed atmosphere. I regard as an encouraging sign the fact that after four months in which there were no contacts at least the momentum has been maintained in the atmosphere along that negotiating track. From that viewpoint, it was good.

[Golan] Other than that, did you hear all the old tunes about a total withdrawal and lack of readiness to define the peace?

[Rabinovich] There was a new nuance. In other words, there was a firm demand to hear the words full withdrawal, but we also heard the expression full peace. There is a Syrian move—of which there were indications already in earlier rounds, but this time it is apparently topping the negotiating strategy and the public relations effort—to try to create a formula of full withdrawal in return for full peace. There is a Syrian readiness to permanently use the expression full peace, but of course, together with a demand to hear the expression full withdrawal. What we did in the deliberations and in our media appearances is to quash that attempt by pointing to its asymmetry. The term full peace can be used without saying much. It can be a pretty cellophane wrapping for what is really nonbelligerency, while the demand for full withdrawal is something very defined. From that standpoint, we did not receive answers to the questions we presented when we separated in December although the fact that there is a readiness to use the term full peace is positive. Several months ago we would have been very happy to note that the Syrian delegation used the expression full peace. That in itself is very positive. It was introduced into a formula that we do not think is good, but we still have two weeks of negotiations before us in this round. We will try to break down the formula and work on its positive foundations and try to build on them.

U.S. Releases List of Deportees Allowed To Return

NC2804101193 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, April 28 (AFP)—The United States has given the Palestinians a list of 30 deportees Israel will allow home in a goodwill gesture following the resumption of the Middle East peace talks, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

All those named, including two women, were expelled from the occupied territories between 1967 and 1987.

But the Palestinians, who received the Israeli list in Washington Tuesday, want Israel to include three members of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction from the occupied West Bank before accepting the list, the sources said.

The three are Khalil 'Ashur, the former Students Union chairman at al-Najah University, Marwan Barghuti of Bi'r Zayt University and a Palestine National Council member, and Amin Maqbul of al-Najah University.

The first two were expelled in 1987 and the third in 1985.

The list approved by Israel includes independent members of the PNC [Palestine National Council] (the parliament in exile), members of the former communist People's Party, one from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and two members of the two different branches of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

An Israeli source said Tuesday that Israel was going to announce several goodwill gestures to the Palestinians to mark the resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

The talks were suspended in December after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Multilateral Talks on Economic Development, Water Begin

TA2804072793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In Rome, multilateral talks on economic development are underway while talks on water resources have started in Geneva. There, Palestinians called for sending a research team to the Middle East to look into their rights to water sources in the territories. The Palestinians, however, did not make dispatching the researchers a condition for continuing the negotiations. The head of the Israeli delegation to talks on water, 'Amos Ganor, said the issue of the control over water sources in the territories would be taken up in the bilateral talks in Washington. Ganor also welcomed an announcement by Japan that it would set up two sea water treatment plants in Jordan. He said this was proof there could be progress in the multilateral talks without any connection to the state of the bilaterals.

Outside the framework of the diplomatic process, an Israeli-Palestinian discussion is underway in Athens on the status of Jerusalem. Participants include Labor Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan. Among the Palestinians present is a PLO official, Sami Musallam. The two-day meeting, which began yesterday, is taking place under the aegis of the United Nations.

Islamic Affairs

Further Reportage on ICO Meeting in Karachi

Pakistan's Mazari Meets Turkey's Cetin

TA2504173993 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 25 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin currently in Karachi to attend the 21st meeting of foreign ministers from countries member to the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO], on Sunday met with Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari.

During the meeting, Mazari stressed the importance of bilateral relations and expressed Pakistan's wishes for further development of present relations.

Cetin voiced Turkey's expectations for the continuation of joint projects started in Pakistan by Turkish businessmen during the past government's rule, adding it also hopes for the support of the new cabinet in future projects.

Mazari said that his country will provide necessary support to Turkish investors.

Cetin also held separate meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa and Moroccan state minister in charge of foreign relations, Ahmed Charkaoui.

Mazari, Iran's Velayati Talk

LD2504210693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Recent developments in Pakistan were discussed today in a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Balkh Sher Mazari, the Pakistani caretaker prime minister. The meeting took place during the 21st Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' conference in Karachi.

Speaking at the meeting, Balkh pointed to the domestic situation in Pakistan and said that political changes in the country are natural. The people of the two countries share many things and Islamic Iran has a place in the heart of the Pakistani people, and any group or party that might come to power in Pakistan will enjoy good relations with Iran, he added.

In turn Velayati pointed out that recent events in Pakistan were a matter for the Pakistani people, and added: We respect the decision and the will of the Pakistani people in electing the ruling party and we hope that the provisional period for the formation of a national parliament and the new government will be quiet.

Uganda Elected Vice President

EA2704112093 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1000 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Uganda has been unanimously elected the vice president of the 21st meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] now going on in Karachi. The Uganda delegation is led by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja. [passage omitted]

The conference, which is attended by 50 member states of the organization, has adopted the theme: Islamic Unity and Cooperation for Peace, Justice, and Progress.

Mozambique Requests Aid

MB2704175093 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] In Karachi, Pakistan, Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi held meetings with the heads of delegations from the nine countries attending a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Mocumbi has been briefing his counterparts on the Mozambican peace process and requesting material and financial assistance from ICO countries countries for Mozambique. The foreign minister has already held talks with delegations from Egypt, Senegal, Tanzania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Pakistan.

Ministers Discuss Bosnia, Kashmir

BK2704155993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers, at their plenary session in Karachi today, called for adopting a united stand by the ummah [community] to face the challenges in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Middle East, as well as protection of the Muslim minorities and their holy places.

The secretary of the People's Bureau of Libya urged the Islamic countries to support the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kashmir and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He suggested a serious dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and within the framework of bilateral relations.

The foreign minister of Mali, Mr. Mohamed Alhousseini, underlined the need of facing collectively the challenges facing the Islamic ummah. The leader of the Guinean delegation said effectiveness of the role of Islamic countries in future would depend on their concrete and united stand on various issues.

The foreign minister of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Fathulla Jameel, said small states, like his country, seek an environment of global security which guarantees their sovereignty and independence.

The secretary general of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, in his speech, pledged ECO support to complement ICO's economic development programs and those of its subsidiary bodies in this region.

Tajik, Saudi Ministers Meet

LD2704141893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Rashid Alimov, the foreign minister of Tajikistan, who is currently taking part in a meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on 26 April.

During talks, Rashid Alimov briefed the prince on the situation in Tajikistan and on the measures adopted by the government of the republic to save the country from crisis. He also touched upon the future development and strengthening of relations between Tajikistan and Saudi Arabia.

Sa'ud al-Faysal favorably assessed efforts by the leadership of the republic at stabilizing the situation in and around Tajikistan, and expressed the hope that peace would return to the country as soon as possible. He stressed that the aim of Islam is to construct and not to destroy. Sa'ud al-Faysal proposed that the relations

between Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan should be made permanent. Rashid Alimov gratefully supported this proposal. [passage indistinct]

Saudi Minister Meets Pakistani President

BK2704150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while talking to the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in Karachi today, said the 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers is being held at a very crucial stage in the history of Muslim ummah [community] and its decisions will have far-reaching consequences. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal is currently attending the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference in Karachi. According to official sources, during the call-on, the Saudi foreign minister discussed with the president matters relating to the Muslim ummah. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal praised the role of Pakistan in supporting Muslim unity and the Islamic causes. He conveyed to the president greetings and best wishes of Khadim al-Haritain Sharifain [custodian of the two holiest shrines] King Fahd.

The secretary general of Rabta al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League], Dr. Abdullah 'Omar al-Naseef, called on the president in Karachi today. He discussed with the president matters relating to the role of Islamic NGO's [nongovernment organizations], like the Rabta, in the ongoing Islamic conference of foreign ministers. The Rabta secretary general assured the president of total cooperation of the Rabta in furthering Islamic unity and other causes.

Bosnian Minister Calls For Help

BK2704160193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The foreign minister of Bosnia, Mr. Haris Silajdzic, has called upon the international community to intervene immediately to save the people of Bosnia from extermination. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, he said it is not war and weapons that we cherish, we want peace which is a prerequisite for our survival. Mr. Haris Silajdzic expressed his satisfaction over the resolution on Bosnia passed by the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers. Replying to a question, he said Pakistan could be proud of what it did for the people of Bosnia.

Velayati Talks With Officials

LD2704155393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The third general session of the foreign ministers' conference of the Islamic Conference Organization member-states continued its work today with addresses from the heads of delegations from eight Arab, African, and Asian countries. [passage omitted]

On the fringes of the session, Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign Minister, met and had separate talks this morning with Turkey's foreign minister; the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Political Committee; and the head of the National Islamic Party of Afghanistan.

Armenian 'Aggression' Criticized

LD2704164293 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 27 IRNA—The 21st conference of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] today unanimously adopted a resolution earlier passed by the political committee dealing with the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

The chairman of this afternoon's session of the OIC meet told the ministers that in view of the UN Security Council meeting on the issue later tonight, he proposed the adoption of the resolution to be immediately conveyed to the Security Council for consideration.

The resolution strongly condemns the recent Armenian offensive against Azerbaijan and the occupation of Azeri territory.

Noting the efforts made by the neighboring and regional states "notably the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey to promote a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh issues and conscious of the threat posed to international peace and security by this latest Armenian aggression, the resolution strongly condemned the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

The resolution calls upon Armenia to withdraw forthwith its forces from all the occupied Azeri territories and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It also reaffirms its total solidarity and support for the efforts being made by the government and people of Azerbaijan to defend their country.

It calls for a just and peaceful settlement of the Karabakh issue on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of the states and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers. Armenia and Azerbaijan are both urged to engage constructively in the ongoing CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) peace process and refrain from any action that will make it more different to reach a peaceful solution.

It also requests the member states, the Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic institutions to provide urgent financial and humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It requests the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council to use their full authority for the adoption of a Security Council resolution condemning the aggression and demanding immediate withdrawal of Armenian military formations from all occupied Azeri territories.

In conclusion, the resolution requests the secretary general of the OIC to follow up the implementation of the resolution and to submit a report thereon to the 22nd OIC foreign ministers conference.

Syria's al-Shar' Gives Speech

JN2704182593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Karachi, 27 Apr (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered the Syrian Arab Republic's speech today at the 21st Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers' conference under way in Karachi. The following is the text of the speech:

Mr. Chairman: On behalf of the Syrian delegation, it pleases me to congratulate you and the friendly Islamic Republic of Pakistan for chairing the 21st session of our ministerial meeting. [passage omitted]

I would like to be clear from the very beginning, and say that the participation of the Arab parties in the peace talks does not in any way mean that the Arab-Israeli conflict is over or that peace has been achieved. Therefore, Islamic solidarity in face of Israel's intransigence is still necessary and urgent at every international forum until Israel has withdrawn from all the Arab territories it occupied by force and war, and until the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights are secured.

Since the convening of the Madrid conference over 15 months ago, the Arab delegations held eight rounds of peace talks with the Israeli side based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, and the letters of invitation and assurances of the two cosponsors. From the first round through the eighth round, the Israeli side has not announced its intention to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories or to respect the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. One time after another, it tried to put the cart before the horse, and to take both land and peace together if it could or if we neglected its intentions and purposes.

We must not forget that the Arab parties, which are waging the battle for peace, derive their strength from their peoples' support, from their national unity, and from your Islamic peoples' solidarity with them. They also derive their strength from their just cause and from the fact the it is based on international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions which should be implemented, not only because the UN Charter stipulates it, but also because they constitute the basis on which the Madrid conference was held. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the new U.S. Administration has renewed all the commitments and obligations the previous U.S. Administration has made prior to the convening of the Madrid conference. We hope that these words will be translated into deeds during the peace talks which will be resumed in Washington today. [passage omitted]

Clarity and a frank and objective discussion of issues among our Islamic states necessitate stating facts even if they were strange and painful. The Westerners, particularly their spoiled friend Israel which acts as if it is above law, said that the Arabs and Muslims were defeated in the Gulf war although the great majority of them stood against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in words and deeds. Such a serious illness can only be cured by true Islamic solidarity which will clarify facts for world public opinion and expose the seriousness of the hostile policies against the Arab and Islamic states which are being peddled under various slogans such as terrorism, human rights, and disarmament. These Western policies are actually aimed at weakening Arabs and Muslims, interfering in their internal affairs, and keeping them of obtaining modern technology and using it to develop their countries and societies. Moreover, they seek to delude the world by claiming that Israel is a democratic state that does not practice terrorism, violate human rights, or use sophisticated technology in producing all kinds of weapons, including mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

Islamic Women's Organization Established

LD2704171693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] At the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the cultural committee of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has agreed to the establishment of an International Islamic Organization for Women. According to a Central News Unit report from Karachi, the committee also announced that the first working session of this organization, which will be active in the cultural, social, and political activities of ladies in the Islamic countries, will be convened in Tehran during the first week of Shahrivar [beginning 23 August 93]. The cultural committee of the ICO also debated the proposal put forward by our country with regard to establishing a convention for defense of Islamic values. A decision was made to present a report in this connection to the next ministerial session.

Velayati Meets With Ministers

LD2704195593 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 27, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here to attend the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference, today met and held talks with a number of his counterparts at the sideline of the conference.

Foreign ministers of over 50 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] are here to review the critical issues the Islamic world is facing and to find solutions to them.

In a meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, Velayati exchanged views with him on

important issues of the Islamic world as well as the latest international developments.

Voicing their concern over the worsening situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the two foreign ministers reviewed ways and means to encourage intyernational organizations and particularly Muslim states to adopt appropriate measures to stop the gencide in Bosnia.

Praising Iran's efforts towards the settlement of the issue, the Saudi foreign minister termed international action as inadequate. He urged the adoption of new measures, including military decisions in support of the oppressed Bosnian people.

Velayati agreed with Faysal that the steps taken by the world to end the massacre of the Bosnian people were not enough: He also deplored the procrastination by certain Western countries which enables the Serbian aggressors to continue their crimes and said Islamic countries should increase their efforts in pressuing the international community lift the sanctions against B-H.

The two sides also reviewed important regional and international events and emphasized on the need for closer cooperation in this respect.

Promotion of bilateral relations was another topic of discussion between Velayati and Faysal with the latter expressing his country's desire to expand relations with Iran.

Velayati also met with his counterparts from Indonesia, Jordan, Turkey, Afghanistan as well as the first deputy prime minister of Albania.

Velayati and Hikmet Cetin of Turkey discussed the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and called for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The OIC conference here today unanimously adopted, ahead of schedule, a resolution passed by the political committee on the conflict between the two countries and condemned the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

The resolution was adopted in order to be immediately conveyed to the UN Security Council which was due to take up the issue in its meeting tonight.

Ways and means to further strengthen Iran-Albania relations were reviewed in Velayati's meeting with Bashkim Kopliku.

The Albanian deputy premier deplored the genocide in Bosnia and said his country would seriously participate in the UN sanctions against Serbia.

Velayati expressed pleasure at Albania's joining the OIC as a new member. Albania is the 52nd member of the OIC.

Mechanisms to further activate the Non-Aligned Movement as well as expansion of mutual relations and the urgent issues of the Islamic world were also discussed in Velayati's meeting with Indonesia's Ali Alatas.

In another meeting, Velayati and Salman Gilani [name as received] studied the latest situation in Afghanistan and underlined efforts to bring understanding among the various factions in the country.

Velayati expressed hope that the Afghan jihadi groups would reach understanding and peace and stability would return to the Islamic state with the end of the disputes.

The OIC foreign ministers conference began here Sunday and is to wind up Thursday after adoption of several resolutions.

Resolution Urges Iraqi Compliance

LD2704222493 Tehran IRNA in English 2108 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 28, IRNA—The political committee of the 21st Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference here adopted a resolution on the "consequences of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and Iraq's non-compliance with Security Council resolutions." The resolution was passed after heated speeches by representatives of Iraq and Kuwait at the committee which was still working on other resolutions until 01:30 hours local time (21:30 GMT).

The resolution presented by Kuwait and several other countries, affirms the necessity for a full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Iraq-Kuwait conflict "to ensure non-occurrence of a new Iraqi aggression in the face of its previous aggressions against its neighboring states." It also deplores that the Iraqi Government has not fully complied with UN resolutions indicating "the harboring of aggressive intentions which necessitates the maintenance of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council and expresses its distress for the ordeal endured by the people of Iraq due to the non-compliance of the Iraqi regime with the decisions of international legitimacy thereby disregarding the interests of the people of Iraq."

The Iraqi delegate at the committee in lengthy remarks claimed that his country has so far observed all the UN resolutions, according to a delegate present at the discussions. The Iraqi envoy also urged the United Nations to lift its embargo, particularly those which affect the Iraqi people.

The Kuwaiti delegate responded in detail to the remarks made by the Iraqi delegate and said his government was still unaware of the fate of some 700 of its citizens since the Persian Gulf war. He accused Iraq of overlooking Kuwait's repeated requests to the effect made through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the secretary general of the Arab League.

The resolution which has to receive the approval of the ministers as well, reiterates the necessity of Iraq's effective adherence to all Security Council resolutions resolutions regarding the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

Libyan Official Delivers Address

LD2704183493 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi (al-Tayer 27) [27 April] JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau, confirmed that the unjust practices which the Great Jamahariya is subjected have been fabricated by America, Britain and France. The last of them is the air ban which cannot be justified at present as the Great Jamahariya has taken tangible and practical steps towards the implementation of Security Council Resolution 731.

In his speech to the 21st session of the Islamic Organisation Conference [ICO] foreign ministers conference [as received] currently being held in Karachi he said that the Great Jamahariya had responded to Security Council Resolution 731 and nothing remains except the trial of the two suspects. Even though Libyan law prohibits the surrender of Libyan citizens for trial outside Libyan territory it proposed that they stand trial before a fair and impartial court in a neutral country, to be determined by other parties in order to establish the facts. This was the main aim and essence of Resolution 731.

He indicated that the other parties did not respond to this proposal which concentrates on the principle of the trial rather than the venue of the trial which we support and constantly insist on.

He added that what was carried out by the Great Jamahariya in responding fully and effectively to Resolution 731 and the proposals it offered makes the continuation of Resolution 748 unjustifiable, particularly as the Arab Libyan Muslim people have incurred heavy losses and disastrous tragedies detailed in the attached memo headed by the ban on performing the Haj duties which was decided on by God almighty in his holy book.

He indicated that as the Great Jamahariya puts these political and religious facts before the conference with the aim of establishing a collective Islamic conviction for its full and efficient response to Security Council Resolution 731, hopes that the conference will adopt a decisive and crucial resolution in this issue thus liberating its conscience from the effects of unfair resolutions and to confirm two major demands namely:

"The cancelling of all sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariya

"Organising air travel during the three months of the Haj thus allowing the Libyan brothers, the guests of gracious God, to perform the Haj duties with honour and dignity.

'Umar al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau confirmed that nobody hates peace. But the peace which we want is the one which satisfies our conscience.

The peace we want is the peace which preserves our dignity and honour. A peace where the negotiating party is not supported by the most powerful state in the world. He explained that the Zionist enemy wants the peace talks to gain time to build up its military power and absolute supremacy over all the Arab states. He noted that the Zionist enemy is free to have any weapon it wants, including weapons of mass destruction.

He said that America did not say anything whatsoever about the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of the Zionist enemy. Nor did it mention anything about UN resolutions which prohibit the Zionist entity from possessing those weapons.

Furthermore it did not include this issue in the agenda of what are called the peace talks.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation said that at the beginning of this century the Great Jamahariya was subjected to a loathsome, fascist invasion, occupation and colonialisation which inflicted huge human and material losses as the Arab Libyan Muslim people offered up thousands of martyrs and Libya was being used as an arena for the conflict during the Second World War and therefore mines were planted on a large part of Libyan soil.

My belief in my country's right and the right of any people to obtain fair compensation for the damages incurred by the invasion and war remnants Libya led us to approach international circles to support our just demand for compensation, the removal of mines and obtaining sketch maps to show their whereabouts.

In accordance with the just principle which says that the aggressor is obliged to pay the price for his aggression international circles have responded to our demand and several resolutions have been passed by the UN General Assembly, the United Nations development programme and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Several resolutions have also been issued by the islamic Conference Organisation re-asserting the Great Jamahariya's right to these demands.

Today we reiterate our demands through you to the aggressing states to assume responsibility and respond to the appeals of the international community to be committed to the resolutions of the international circles concerning the war remnants.

'Umar al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau said that the Palestinian cause is not only an Arab issue but is an Islamic issue as well and has to attract the attention of all Muslims wherever they were. It is either surrender or jihad and struggle for the sake of God. Surrender leads to evil, insulting and humiliating results but the results of jihad and struggle are all beneficial and good, dignity, martyrdom and paradise.

They want us to change the terminology of our speeches to match what goes around us. How can we allow our conscience to accept that at the time when Israel continues, daily and hourly, to prepare and to deploy its armaments against the Arabs? Any one who seeks peace has to be ready for war. What have we prepared for the next Israeli aggression? He indicated that if the Zionist entity wanted peace then it would not have resumed constructing large numbers of settlements to accommodate the immigrant Jews from Russia and elsewhere as well as constructing towns and military bases in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The secretary went on to say: When the interests of the colonialists are harmed in our area then huge armies are deployed in the name of international legitimacy to implement the United Nations resolutions. We are for international legitimacy, to institute justice and stop injustice. But the right can not be fragmented. Where was the international legitimacy when hundreds of resolutions were issued by the United Nations to reinstate the homeless Palestinian people to their occupied land and enable them to practice their right in self determination.

He said: I need not remind the conference that when this conference was held for the first time in 1969 in Saudi Arabia it had one objective which was the liberation of the holy Palestinian territory from the Zionist colonization tyranny. Towards that end we have issued scores of resolutions and piles of written documents. Nothing has been implemented. This is the 21st session, the more we hold conferences the more we become submissive and capitulative.

He questioned what had become of all those resolutions of jihad and struggle in the sake of God. He said that we started to define the children mojahedin in the holy land by the stone throwing children not by their fathers or by their mothers. Such children, the stone throwing children have to be protected but they find no support form us. They are sent to prisons and they are killed or made homeless. Our stance towards them is shameful.

In respect of the situation in Yugoslavia, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co- operation Bureau said that the Great Socialist Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriya has accorded great attention to the developments of the current events in the former Yugoslavia and exerted efforts on various levels and with all the parties in the conflict to arrive at a peaceful and just settlement in the area to restore the interests and rights of all parties and respect their will in self determination and in defining their national options.

We have always confirmed the importance and significance of the role played by the former Yugoslavia within the Movement of Non-Alliance and the need to preserve the positive aspects in its continued relations with most countries of our Islamic region and its plausible stances towards the causes of the Arab nation.

But since the former Yugoslavia became an arena for foreign intervention which led to its fragmentation and the escalation of animosity between its rival parties then the position of the Great Jamahiriya which stems from its solid principles is the confirmation of the respect of the right of all the nations and nationalities in self-determination and following their national options. In accordance to this the Great Jamahiriya announced its formal recognition of the Republic of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina which are all parts of the former Yugoslavia. We used and still are, intent on rejecting any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and at the same time try to urge new Yugoslavia to exert its efforts with the Bosnian Serbs to arrive at a peaceful and just settlement for the bloody conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and towards achieving the interests of all rival parties in the republic. In addition to that we intensified our efforts with the new Yugoslavia to intervene with the Bosnian Serbs to insure the arrival of the international relief convoys to the besieged Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The logic of power and violence with all its aspects of total destruction for civilization, religious monuments, economic utilities, deportation and expulsion of the people has taken the place of dialogue and peaceful settlement. Naturally this tendency contradicts totally with the principles of the United Nations and the legitimacy of our Islamic organization. Even though the Security Council had imposed sanctions on Serbia in accordance with Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter but its actions came very late and its resolutions remained frozen and were never turned into actions to salvage a nation which is suffering all sorts of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination. This raised a number of big question marks on the credibility of the Security Council in keeping peace and security in the world.

'Umar al-Muntasir the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation revealed that despite the suffering of the Great Jamahiriya from the sanctions and the embargo but it had saved no effort to offer all it could offer in the form of aid to the Bosnian people that included education and health care and protection for them against cleansing and saving them from the neo-Christianity institutions.

It also took the initiative in announcing its readiness to perform its world role to settle this problem in accordance with its principles and stances which gain the acceptance of all rival parties and that following the failure of the United Nations and the other parties in realizing the required settlement. Within this pattern a political figure, Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, was assigned to contact the three conflicting parties, Muslims, Serbs and Croats with the aim of achieving a peaceful settlement for the conflict in the area. The concerned authorities in new Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina have been asked to provide all facilities required to enable him perform his humanitarian role.

We implore all our states to take the initiative and provide any help possible material or moral, for this young republic and enable her to achieve its will and put an end to its plight.

'Umar al-Muntasir the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau confirmed the need to be attentive to all causes of Islamic minorities and said:

Islamic minorities throughout the world still suffer the worst kinds of oppression and tyranny. In Yugoslavia, Burma, Sri Lanka, in Africa, Europe and Asia we find that the minorities are subjected to various pressures ranging between threats and incentives to force them change their religion.

The assimilation and disappearance of this minorities in the surrounding societies should never be allowed as this minorities will be lost for the Islamic nation.

He went on to say, perhaps the case of Philippinian Muslims is one of the chronic issues in which all indicators assert that justice was being done by the Muslim party. Muslims in the Philippines have faced over many years a great deal of oppression and tyranny. As they have received from some of their brothers in religion and members of this conference an amount of understanding and support for their just cause.

It is very pleasing to know that the two parties have arrived at their first meeting in Tripoli in October 1992, and the second meeting in Indonesia in the middle of the current month. The two parties agreed to limit their agenda of talks on only two major items and that is finding a machinery for the implementation of the Tripoli accord in 1976 in form and in spirit and the second is that negotiations between the Philippinean government and the National Front for the Liberation of Moro are to resume before 30/6/1993.

He stated that such agreement is considered a positive step towards the just settlement but the six ministerial committee charged with the implementation of the Tripoli accord has to move in a more positive way to confirm the credibility of what has been agreed to, and to propose the appropriate procedure to push the Philippinean Government towards meeting its obligations in accordance to what had been stated in Tripoli accord.

As the responsibility of this organization did not so far take the direction of this issue then the Great Jamahiriya suggests that the conference is to bless and endorse the positive steps taken by both parties towards a just settlement. This conference has to confirm the continued support, political, material and moral for the Muslims in Moro and their struggle towards achieving self rule in accordance with the Tripoli accord of 1976.

Indonesia's Alatas on Cambodia Polls

BK2804055893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says it would be highly regrettable if a general election scheduled to be held in Cambodia next month failed to bring about national reconciliation. Thus, Indonesia urged various parties to support post-election efforts to be undertaken by Prince Sihanouk. The foreign minister said this during the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting in Karachi. Minister Ali Alatas reiterated that the Cambodian general election should proceed despite the Khmer Rouge's withdrawal from the process.

Resolution on Kashmir Adopted

BK2804022693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The political committee of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference adopted a resolution in Karachi last night which calls for the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and as agreed by India and Pakistan in the Simla Accord.

The resolution, which is to be formally approved by the ICO foreign ministers, condemns the large-scale violation of the Kashmiri people's rights. The resolution asks the member states to take necessary steps to see that India refrains from indulging in large-scale human rights violations so the Kashmiri people can exercise their right of self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The resolution asks India to allow international human rights groups and institutions to visit Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Regretting India's negative attitude to Pakistan's proposal for bilateral talks, the resolution asks the Indian Government to respond positively to this proposal so the basic reasons for tension between the two countries can be eliminated. The resolution calls on India and Pakistan to redeploy their troops to the peace-time positions.

The resolution proposes the good offices of the ICO to assist in peaceful and just resolution of the Kashmir issue. The resolution appeals to the member states, Islamic institutions, and generous people to liberally give donations and funds to help the Kashmiri people on humanitarian grounds.

The political committee took note of the ICO secretary general's report on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which includes graphic pictures of massive human rights abuses and the torture of innocent Kashmiris. The report supports the secretary general's recommendations for solving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla Accord.

Resolution on Ayodhya Issue Considered

BK2804033893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Cultural Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference has condemned the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque at Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics. In a resolution forwarded to the foreign minister's conference, the committee asked India to fulfill its promise of reconstrucing the mosque at its original site and remove the makeshift temple set up by Hindu fanatics there. It also called for protecting Islamic values and Islamic cultural heritage.

The economic committee of the conference adopted a resolution relating to poverty eradication, environment protection, North-South negotiations and the promotion of economic cooperation among Muslim countries.

The Organizational and Financial Committee has also concluded its work.

A conference spokesman told newsmen that most of the recommendations adopted by the political and other committees were proposed by Pakistan. Meanwhile, the foreign ministers conference continued till late last night.

More Aid to Bosnia Pledged

LD2804082793 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 28, (IRNA)—The foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Foreign Ministers (OIC) [as received; Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] today pledged an additional aid of dollars 80m to Bosnia.

In a special session convened late last night and ended in the early hours of today, the OIC foreign ministers from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, UAE and Kuwait pledged their contributions as follows:

Iran: dlrs 20m (in addition to previous 80m)

Saudi Arabia: dlrs 20m

Turkey: dlrs 20m (in addition to previous dlrs 20m)

Kuwait: dlrs 10m

UAE: dlrs 10m

Pakistan: dlrs five million in kind (in addition to dlrs 10m in cash and dlrs 20m in kind earlier).

The OIC foreign ministers which convened here on Sunday have devoted particular attention to the Bosnian crisis.

The 21st OIC conference is scheduled to end tomorrow after adopting a number of resolutions on different issues of the Islamic world.

In a resolution adopted by the ministerial conference on Bosnia ahead of schedule Monday night, the OIC urges the UN Security Council to grant Bosnia the right of self-defence and lift the arms embargo against it.

Islamic states are expected to supply military and financial aid to Bosnia as soon as the Security Council lifts the embargo against the country.

Velayati Meets Counterparts

LD2804083993 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 28, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday underlined the need for further cooperation among Muslim countries. Velayati, here for the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference, made the call in separate meetings with his Malaysian, Tunisian and Azerbaijani counterparts.

In his talks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Velayati urged Muslim states to strengthen their economy through upgrading regional cooperation and communication. Badawi underlined the need for cooperation among Muslim countries in view of the fact they enjoyed many common aspects. The two sides also stressed the need for further broadening of bilateral ties.

Velayati also held talks with his Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahya and discussed expansion of bilateral ties and issues related to the Islamic world, Bosnian and Palestinian questions in particular. Ben Yahya said that Tunisian president was interested in upgrading bilateral ties and having good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In another meeting, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tufik Gasymov briefed Velayati on latest developments in Karabakh and hailed Iran's firm stand adopted towards Karabakh issue as well as Tehran's humanitarian aid to the war-stricken region. Velayati underlined the need for the establishment of a just and honorable peace in Karabakh enclave.

Foreign ministers of over 50 member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] are here to discuss critical issues facing the Muslim world and find solutions to them.

Palestinian Affairs

Officials, Media Comment on Current Round of Talks

Al-Husayni Holds Briefing

TA2704100593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 93 p A2

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, announced on Saturday that Saudi financial aid will begin to reach the territories in mid-May.

Al-Husayni was addressing an audience of 150 Palestinian dignitaries, representing various sectors in the territories, who accepted his invitation to a meeting at the Holyland Hotel in East Jerusalem. The meeting was called to explain the Palestinian decision to participate in the ninth round of talks opening today in Washington and the latest political developments.

Al-Husayni did not specify the exact amount of Saudi aid or whether it would be transferred to the territories directly or via the PLO. However, speaking at some occasion recently, he noted that the aid would total $200 million to be invested in housing and industrial projects in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Referring to the peace process and the decisionmaking process within the Palestinian delegation, he said that, in his opinion, the delegation—which received authorization to this effect from the Palestine National Council [PNC]—should follow its own well- founded considerations rather than the inclinations of the Palestinian street. Asked about the Palestinian delegation and the PLO caving in to Arab pressure, al-Husayni said the Palestinians cannot ignore other elements and that even the United States cannot do that.

He went on to say that the delegation and the PLO leadership do not plan to put a possible agreement with Israel to a vote in a referendum but to submit it to the PNC for approval.

Al-Husayni enumerated the delegation's considerations in returning to the negotiations, stressing that in spite of everything, the Palestinians had scored achievements in various areas, such as returning deportees and preventing future deportations, questions of substance in the negotiations, and breaking the "Madrid formula" through his own inclusion in the delegation.

Al-Husayni criticized the continuation of general strikes within the intifadah, saying that, in his opinion, these should stop because of the economic damage they cause.

Talks Said 'Crucial' to Process

TA2504065893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a member of the Palestinian Advisory Council to the peace talks, said that the upcoming round of talks would be crucial to the process. In his opinion, the Palestinian delegation was leaving for Washington only because of the decision made by its leadership in Tunis, and in order to preclude a situation in which the Palestinian leaders in the territories would become an alternative leadership.

In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad condemned the knifing attacks perpetrated by Palestinians. He said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was exerting heavy pressure on the residents of the territories, and asserted that this the reason behind Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's desire to resign as head of the Palestinian delegation.

Abu-Zayyad added that the Palestinian delegation would arrive in Washington with an open mind and readiness to hold practical negotiations. He said that the Palestinians expected some good will gestures from Israel.

'Arafat on Peace Talks

LD2604134093 London BBC Television Network in English 0715 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by David Frost in Tunis on 23 April; from the "Breakfast With Frost" program—recorded]

[Text] [Frost] What is the one thing that you most need to be agreed in those talks, the one progress, the one maybe—concession that you need?

['Arafat] I want that Israel will follow up the basis of the peace process, present peace initiative, land for peace, the implementation of [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338, which means the withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arabic territories, including East Jerusalem and the political and democratic rights of the Palestinian people and security for all of us in the region.

[Frost] But you will have to start and obviously do that by stages?

['Arafat] I will tell you how they are dealing with us. Rabin did not change the head of his delegation and negotiations which had been [words indistinct]. This means that the mentality of Shamir and the spirit of Shamir is still on the table. Can you imagine it? And in the same time we are the only delegation which is facing veto from the Israeli's for our delegation. Give me one example all over the history that one party has the right to dictate the names of another party delegation. It is only the Israeli's who have the right to dictate the names of the Palestinian delegation.

[Frost] What do you think that Israel ought to do about the deportees?

['Arafat] It is a big mistake, because this is collective punishment—which is crime of war.

[Frost] Tell me what effect does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have on these talks?

['Arafat] They are against—not from now but from the beginning they are against. But we are representing the Palestinian people. And at the same time we are respecting the points of view of the minority, this is our democracy, but at the same time the minority has to follow up the decision of the majority.

[Frost] But there is a danger in the rise of the fanatic groups?

['Arafat] Yes fanatic groups.

[Frost] I mean Hamas is a fanatic group I suppose?

['Arafat] In the beginning they were not, because as you know they had been accepted by Rabin himself.

[Frost] But I mean in terms of Hamas, they claim that they have got 40-45 percent support in the occupied territories.

['Arafat] I will give you an example. Is this their ways? For your information we have 39 spots of election in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They got only five of 39, and the PLO got 34. This is free election.

[Frost] So to those Hamas people who say the PLO is no longer the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, there are now two—the PLO and Hamas, what would you say?

['Arafat] No, they can say that they are against my movement as an example [word indistinct] movement, or his movement the democratic movement, or popular front movement, the democratic movement, or popular front movement, or the Arab movement organizations, but PLO is something different. The PLO is not an ordinary organization, it is the identity of the Palestinian people. I am representing the Palestinian people, I am here the chairman of the PLO, I am here the president of the State of Palestine. I cannot accept from my responsibility any Iranian or other outside interference in Palestinian affairs.

[Frost] When you accepted Israel's right to exist in December 1988, and you renounced terrorism—did you renounce terrorism forever?

['Arafat] Definite.

[Frost] What about the difference, what is the difference between terrorism which you have renounced and armed struggle?

['Arafat] Exactly what is the difference between terrorism and resistance. Our people in their Intifidah and their uprising now, with their stones with their resistance have the rights to continue until the end of the Israeli occupation.

[Frost] So resistance is resisting within your own country when others are running that country or occupying that country. Terrorism is wanton acts of violence outside your homeland?

['Arafat] Yes, and we are completely against this.

[Frost] Is your life less dangerous now?

['Arafat] More or less, because as you know not to forget air- raids against my residents in [words indistinct], some kilometers far from here.

[Frost] So does that still put a great pressure on you then in the sense of moving from place to place?

['Arafat] No I am a strong believer. I was not imagining that I would be able to be safe in the last crash of my aeroplane in the Libyan desert, but it happened, it is a miracle.

[Frost] People have said as a result of that—that in case that ever happened again you really ought to name a deputy, a number two?

['Arafat] Number two there.

[Frost] Where?

['Arafat] In our Executive Committee. Yes this is known.

[Frost] But you will never—am I right in thinking—you will probably never retire, do you want to just carry on until you drop?

['Arafat] No revolutionary has the right to resign. Victory or death.

[Frost] Seventeen years ago you said to me that I would love to have a family, but it is not easy for me, and you have just recently married again, can you have a family?

['Arafat] I hope so, she is suffering now with me.

[Frost] But you think it is possible to be a revolutionary and to raise a family?

['Arafat] Very difficult. You don't know how she is suffering with me. I am still working about 18 hours per day.

[Frost] What do you do when there is a tug-of-war between the revolution and the family, which comes first?

['Arafat] My big family is my people.

[Frost] I want to ask you now about what you regard so far as your greatest achievement and your greatest mistake. A lot of people would expect you to say in terms of your greatest mistake that it was backing Saddam Husayn in the Gulf War and never condemning his invasion of Kuwait?

['Arafat] No actually this is not right, what is this? [handing Frost a piece of paper], it is Palestinian thoughts.

[Frost] Palestinian thoughts on an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

['Arafat] On 13 August 1991.

[Frost] After the invasion at the beginning of the war?

['Arafat] After the invasion. Look at what we are saying, withdrawal of the Iraqi airforces from Kuwait. We were not supporting Saddam in occupying Kuwait, we were against the war.

[Frost] But the thing is when you said things on the radio like, this imperialist, American Atlanticist Zionist aggression against sister Iraq, everybody took that to mean that you were on Iraq's side in this war. And of course the Saudi Arabians and the Kuwaiti's still think so, I mean they are still angry aren't they, they are still demanding an apology?

['Arafat] Look I am saying that until now nobody had the right to interfere in any Arabic territory, Arab crisis. We have the right to resolve it—as Arabs.

[Frost] The Saudi's say to people that they won't pay anymore money to support the PLO until and unless they get an apology from you about the Gulf war, are you going to give them one?

['Arafat] I have declared what I had mentioned clear and obvious, and I have sent many letters to His Majesty King Fahd to help my people, and I hope that he will accept my appeal, not only for the sake of myself or my PLO, but for the sake of our people who are facing occupation and starvation in Gaza.

[Frost] Was your appeal to King Fahd also an apology? Did you apologize to King Fahd when you appealed?

['Arafat] He did not ask for my apology.

[Frost] What do you think was your greatest achievement so far?

['Arafat] In 1952 Mr. [words indistinct] the secretary general of the United Nations removed and cancelled item of Palestine from the agenda of United Nations, and the Palestinians became only figures in the United Nations, how many refugees here, and how many refugees there. But now we can say clearly and obviously and with a loud voice—we are the main factor in the Middle East's equation. No peace without the Palestinians, no stability without the Palestinians.

[Frost] Do you think you will actually live to see an independent Palestinian national state, or will you never be allowed to see the promised land?

['Arafat] No I will invite you to come and visit me there in Palestine.

[Frost] Alright I will put the date in my diary, what is the date?

['Arafat] Within not more than between 18 months and two years. For your information it is a matter of time. We are a figure in the political equation, this means that we become on the geographical map sooner or later. This is one of the biggest factors and realities.

[Frost] Mr. Chairman, Mr. president thank you very much.

PLO Official on U.S. Role in Talks

AU2704110393 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0442 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, PLO representative in Germany, by Vera Szoelloesi; place not given—live]

[Text] [Szoelloesi] Good morning, Mr. al-Franji.

[Al-Franji] Good morning.

[Szoelloesi] Mr. al-Franji, what does the PLO expect from the new round of Middle East talks?

[Al-Franji] Above all, we expect the United States to assume greater responsibility for peace and for both sides. We expect the United States to exert pressure on Israel so that the Israelis will accept the resolutions of the UN Security Council. The current development and the eight rounds of talks with the Israelis that we have completed have shown that the Israelis have so far not submitted serious offers to the Palestinians. We want the Israelis to demonstrate more clearly that they really want peace with the Palestinians, and that they are ready to agree to compromises with the Palestinians, so that the Palestinians are no longer impeded in their drive for self-administration.

[Szoelloesi] Is this expectation vis-a-vis the United States also a consequence of rumors, speculations, and reports that the United States has exerted considerable pressure on the Palestinians?

[Al-Franji] Well, the United States has so far exerted enormous pressure on the Palestinians. Thus, as I just stated, it is about time that the United States exerted the same kind of pressure on the Israelis. The Palestinians have been very accommodating. They agreed to participate in talks as part of a Jordanian delegation, and they did not insist on a settlement of the Jerusalem issue at the very beginning. They also showed readiness to talk with the Israelis. In addition, we also showed readiness to participate in the ninth round of negotiations, in spite of the unsettled problem of the deportees and without insisting on an immediate solution. However, we demand that the Israelis implement Resolution 799, which was adopted by the UN Security Council in December last year. The deportees must be allowed to return to their homes. We understand the frustration and the anger of the deportees and the reasons for their marches. They are legitimate and just. We hope that this issue will be taken into consideration so that the PLO can continue to participate in the talks.

[Szoelloesi] Does that mean that the PLO sees itself under pressure to achieve success because it is attending the talks without a settlement of the issue of the deportees?

[Al-Franji] Well, the United States must now become active. It promised us that the deportees and the Palestinians that have been expelled since 1967 will be allowed to return. There has been talk of 30 Palestinians

who are now allowed to return, and that all of the Palestinian deportees should return by September.

[Szoelloesi] The 396 deportees in the no man's land—this is the major reason for the current crisis of the talks—rejected the compromise offer concerning a gradual return to Israel. Is the PLO being blackmailed—to use a strong word—by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters in this respect?

[Al-Franji] No, I would not say that. Solidarity prevails among the Palestinians. This should not change. All of them were deported at the same time and all of them should be allowed to return in accordance with Resolution 799. We have the right to stick together and to return in the same way as we were deported. We want to return together. I understand and I even admire this attitude among the Hamas supporters and deportees in southern Lebanon. Thus, I hope that the United States will not break its promise and delay the implementation of the resolution until after September. This means that the Israelis must make clear concessions on this issue in the next three or four months and take a significant step toward peace in the Middle East.

[Szoelloesi] So, is there no controversy between the PLO and Hamas on this question?

[Al-Franji] No. We are a democratic institution, and the Palestinian people are proud of their democracy. It is understandable that differences of opinion exist on various points. If we are democrats, we must allow these differences and disputes. I do not believe—some people would like to see that here and in the Arab region—that these disputes will lead to a confrontation. I believe that we can incorporate Hamas in our society, and that we should continue the democratic dialogue with this group until it participates in shaping the entire course of Palestinian history together with the Palestinians, so that it can learn through discussions how the future of the Palestinians can be shaped.

[Szoelloesi] Despite the fact that Hamas does not renounce violence?

[Al-Franji] In this region, violence is not used by the Hamas alone. Numerous Israeli institutions, including the Israeli Army, also resort to violence. Many Israeli right-wing extremists and other organizations use violence. The current peace process should create an atmosphere in which violence is no longer possible, and in which people who use force have no place and do not determine the history of the Israelis and Palestinians any more. This is the goal of the peace talks, and it is clear that it will not be possible for us to convince all people that violence is not necessary. We can only do that if our talks with the Israelis are successful. In this respect, I would like to stress that the United States has more responsibility for peace, and that it should exert pressure on Israel, so that an atmosphere can be created in which people will feel ashamed to use violence.

[Szoelloesi] What significance does the PLO accord have to al-Faysal Husayni's participation in the negotiations? Israel agreed to his participation in spite of the fact that he is from eastern Jerusalem. What demands do the Palestinians link with this fact?

[Al-Franji] Well, we would like to make it clear to Israel that eastern Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians, and that the 100 Palestinians who are living in eastern Jerusalem will never become Israelis, and that the territory of the Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem must never be annexed. We hope that the Israelis will now also accept this point since al-Faysal Husayni will hold talks with them as a member of the delegation. I hope that the Israelis do not interpret differently the fact that Husayni is a member of the delegation.

Paper Urges Support for Team

TA2704142493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 26 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Right Decision"]

[Text] After long and protracted deliberations, all the Arab parties—including the Palestinian side—took a unanimous decision to return to Washington, D.C., for the ninth round of talks beginning April 27, 1993.

The Palestinian team to the bilateral talks recommended a postponement of participation to its leadership. But the leadership—at the level of President Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi and other members of the Executive Committee of the PLO—took into consideration the best interests of the Palestinian people, even though the decision goes against the popular tide. The decision to pursue the peace process was a courageous one; it was needed in order to evaluate what progress can be made with the United States as a full partner.

Some members of the Palestinian team have suspended their participation, namely the two delegates of the Peoples Party. This suspension is temporary. We must remember that other members in previous rounds chose on an individual basis not to participate, but the team performed efficiently and was not affected by the absence of a specific member.

President 'Arafat said: "We shall see if the Israeli government abides by its commitments." Now, let us see what kind of progress will develop, specifically since it is the first time the Clinton administration participates in the talks. Egypt is also playing a more active role.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', in announcing the Arab decision to resume the talks, declared that the Arab side will reassess and evaluate the progress made during the ninth round, to decide the value of further talks. Thus progress on substantive issues is essential during the coming round, in order to convince the opposition and skeptics in all camps, that negotiations are the main channel to the resolution of the conflict.

The Palestinian side will concentrate on an equitable, quick return for the expellees in compliance with Resolution 799, besides all the issues on its agenda in the negotiations. It will also concentrate on the political and economic repercussions of the military closure of the territories. Moreover, the isolation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories will be fought at all levels, since it violates the assurances given by the co-sponsor to the Palestinian delegation that Arab East Jerusalem is occupied territory and Security Council Resolution 242 applies to it as it applies to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With the decision made to return to the negotiating table, Palestinian political circles should concentrate their energy in supporting the Palestinian team in order to procure the best terms.

The time is past for second-guessing. Now all of us have to work arduously for our main goal, to end the occupation.

Palestinian on Withdrawal From Delegation

PM2604101793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 93 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Dr. Samir 'Abdallah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Suspension of Our Participation in Ninth Round Does Not Represent Split in Palestinian Position"]

[Text] London—Dr. Samir 'Abdallah has declined to say that the suspension decision could represent a split in the Palestinian position, or that it could have a negative impact on the other members of the negotiating delegation. He stressed his commitment to the peace process and to providing support and backing for members of the delegation.

Dr. 'Abdallah, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his office at the Peace Center in occupied Jerusalem, said that "Israeli and U.S. noncommitment to Palestinian demands prompts us to believe that the ninth round will not bring any change, and that it will be similar to the previous rounds—a waste of time. That is why we decided to suspend participation."

Dr. 'Abdallah and Ghassan al-Khatib, the other member who announced the suspension of his participation in the ninth round of negotiations, which will begin in Washington 27 April, belong to the Palestinian People's Party in the occupied territories, which is represented on the Executive Committee by Sulayman al-Najjab.

Dr. 'Abdallah attributed the suspension of his participation in the peace negotiations to American and Israeli failure to fulfill Palestinian demands.

He said: The objective of our position is to register a protest.

'Abdallah classified Palestinian demands in two parts, saying that the "first part concerns the essence of the negotiations and demands that Israel comply precisely with the authority of the negotiations represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

He added: "And that means Israel's acknowledgment that the 1967 territories are occupied—not disputed—territories, and that it, as a result, should comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention."

He added: "We are demanding that Israeli proposals in the negotiations proceed from this understanding and from international legitimacy, not from the Greater Israel idea and the submission of self-administration plans rejected by the Palestinians long ago. And that it implement resolution 242 not on the basis of its own concept but the concept of complete withdrawal from the territories which it occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem."

On the second part of the Palestinian demands 'Abdallah said that "this part concerns Israeli practices in the occupied territories." He went on to say that "it is unsound for us to participate in serious negotiations while Israel continues to launch a campaign of repression and starvation against the Palestinian people, in addition to its imposition of an economic blockade depriving over 100,000 Palestinian families of their daily bread."

'Abdallah pointed out that this blockade not only prevents tens of thousands of workers from reaching their workplaces but also divides the occupied West Bank into four cantons (north and south of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and al-Aghwar) separated from one another. He said that "the blockade means preventing movement between the north and south of the West Bank. It also prevents Palestinians of the West Bank entering Jerusalem or reaching the al-Aghwar area, which is the main agricultural area. In brief, the blockade prevents any form of commercial dealings between these areas—which increases economic decline."

'Abdallah said that "since the blockade unemployment has reached 70 percent in the occupied territories, compared with 30 percent before—an increase of 40 percent in the course of a few weeks."

He said that "the second part also includes the deportation issue as a whole. For our part, we offered a concession in the case of the deportees of Marj al-Zuhur in return for a pledge by Israel not to resort to the deportation policy, on the grounds that that is the basis. But Israel pledged nothing of that kind."

Asked whether Israel's acceptance of Faysal al-Husayni's participation in the negotiating delegation on the grounds that he is one of Jerusalem's sons—something which the former Likud government rejected—is a positive indication on Israel's part, he said that "Israel did not agree to the inclusion of Jerusalem in the negotiations, but to Al-Husayni's participation, because he has another address in the West Bank, as it says."

Asked whether there is a difference between the U.S. and Israeli positions on the Jerusalem issue, he said that "the

U.S. position on the Jerusalem issue is clear, but Israeli settlement is in full swing in the Jerusalem area and before the eyes and ears of the Americans, who have not budged."

Not only that; American money is actually financing settlement."

He went on to say: "We want the United States to adopt a neutral position and to adhere to the guarantees and commitments it promised.

"What is required of the United States and Israel is to provide clear, open, and binding guarantees."

'Abdallah declined to say that the decision to suspend participation could represent a split in the Palestinian position or have a negative impact on the other members of the delegation, especially Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, on the ground that he is a former communist. He pointed out that it is merely intended to register a protest, and that he and his party will provide members of the delegation with all forms of possible support.

'Abdallah stressed his and his party's commitment to the peace process.

He hoped that the decision to participate [as published] in the negotiations will not adversely affect the overall peace process.

U.S. Role of Full Partner Put to 'Test'

TA2704153893 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Washington Talks and U.S. Credibility"]

[Text] The ninth round of Arab-Israel talks will resume in Washington today at a time when the Palestinian delegation has obtained promises on the repatriation of some of the Palestinian deportees, deported from 1967 to 1987, and implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

This round, which by all criteria is considered a crucial one, will decide the fate of the entire negotiations. It is also the right test for the credibility of the United States, whose secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has declared will play the role of a "full partner" in the talks.

If the U.S. Administration really wishes to ensure the talks' success and the attainment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, it should try to have the Fourth Geneva Convention implemented in the occupied territories, induce Israel to lift at once the siege imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and strive for the repatriation of all the deportees—whether those deported last December or the ones banished from their homeland since 1967—in implementation of UN resolutions issued in this respect.

Moreover, since the U.S. Administration is talking about its role as full partner in the talks, it is called upon to resume the dialogue with the PLO, because it is inconceivable for the administration to be a full partner in the talks while not maintaining relations with a major party in the region. In addition, the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people and is the party that can reach a real peace.

While following this "crucial" round, we would like to stress that its results will decide whether the peace process in the region will continue or will come to a halt, in which case only God knows how explosive the situation will become.

Will the U.S. Administration succeed in playing the role of a full partner, unbiased toward Israel, thus preserving at least part of its credibility, which it lost over the many past years because of its total bias in favor of Israel?

Israeli 'Proposals' Expected

TA2704180493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Apr 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A New and Different Round of Talks"]

[Text] With the resumption of the ninth round of peace talks today, the eyes of both supporters and opponents of the peace process will be focused on Washington to follow developments and draw conclusions. There is a feeling by everyone that this round will indeed differ from the previous ones whether in terms of introduction, deliberations, or results.

Agreement was reached on participation in this round following weeks of intensive contacts. It is being convened a whole week later than its original date, accompanied by unprecedented U.S. promises, assurances, and guarantees to the Palestinian side. At the same time, most of the issues that led to the suspension of Palestinian and Arab participation in the talks are still pending.

True, Israel has expressed its readiness to make some concessions and show flexibility; however, this has not gone beyond promises and pledges. According to Israeli sources, Israel is awaiting the actual resumption of the talks in order to act, whereas Palestinian and Arab parties expected changes in Israeli positions as soon as agreement was announced to attend the talks.

Hence, on the one hand everyone is anticipating the Israeli side's proposals and initiatives, and on the other hand is awaiting to see how the United States will fulfill its promised role of full partner in the talks—a partner who carries out his task objectively and without bias toward Israel as Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the beginning of this week. That remark was welcomed in general by the Arab negotiating parties since it embodied the hope of a shift in U.S. positions.

The Palestinian side is also expecting Israeli initiatives in the occupied territories in terms of ending the current practices of deportations, closures, and so forth. This would convince the Palestinians of the seriousness of the Israeli side's peaceful intentions and the benefit of the talks as such because those initiatives will enhance the

peace process, leading to the achievement of the Palestinian people's goals and aspirations and implementation of all international legitimacy's resolutions, which represent the only terms of reference for the peace talks.

Israeli 'Initiatives' in Territories Urged

LD2804074493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] With the resumption of the peace talks in their ninth round today, the eyes of the supporters and opposers of the peace process alike are focused on Washington to follow up the developments and conclude the outcome. Everyone has the feeling that this round will be indeed different from the previous ones with regards to the preliminaries, interventions, and even the results. Agreement was reached on participation in this round after weeks of intensive contacts. It is being held a whole week later than its originally scheduled date and with it came previously unparalleled U.S. promises, assurances, and guarantees to the Palestinian side. Meanwhile, in reality, most of the suspended issues which have been frozen since the Palestinian and Arab participation in the negotiations are still frozen.

It is true that Israel has expressed its readiness to offer compromises here and flexibility there. However, that has not gone beyond the scope of promises and undertakings on the convening of the talks in practical terms, according to Israeli sources. Meanwhile, Palestinian and Arab sides have been expecting a change to occur in the Israeli stances on the mere announcement by the Palestinian side that it would attend the conference. Therefore, everyone is waiting in anticipation to see what proposals and initiatives the Israeli side would offer on the one hand and, on the other hand how the United States will play its promised role as a full partner in the talks and undertake its mission objectively and without bias towards Israel, as stated by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the beginning of this week. That statement was generally welcomed by the Arab negotiating sides as representing hope that a change had occurred in U.S. stances.

The Palestinian side expects Israeli initiatives in the occupied territories, such as ending the current practices of expulsions, exclusions, and others practices so that Palestinians will be convinced of the seriousness of the Israeli negotiator's intentions and the usefulness of the talks themselves. With these initiatives the peace process would have the opportunity to become consolidated. They would make it possible to achieve the objectives and aspirations of the Palestinian people and to implement all the resolutions of international legitimacy which constitute the only point of reference for the peace talks.

Public's Attitude Toward Team Viewed

NC2804080893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, president of the Palestinian Journalists Association, in Ramallah, West Bank by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Abu-'Ayyash. How does the Palestinian public view the ninth round of peace negotiations, which comes after several months of delays caused by the deportees crisis?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The Palestinian public expects the ninth round of talks, unlike previous rounds, to bring progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the other Arab-Israeli discussions. It is now clear that negotiations are the only way to end the Middle East problems. The Palestinians expect Israel to submit new proposals and ideas ending human rights violations and touching on substantive issues connected with the transitional period, including a clear and direct link between this period and the next stage, at which Resolutions 242 and 338 will be implemented. This means land for peace. These Palestinian expectations are still cautious despite the statements coming from various capitals, particularly Washington and Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Abu-'Ayyash, the Palestinian negotiator doubtlessly needs clear and strong support from the Palestinian public while sitting opposite the Israeli negotiator. As a citizen who lives in the occupied territories and is also conversant with Israeli public opinion, how can the Arab negotiator enjoy the Palestinian public's strong backing? How can he be kept informed of what is happening in the territories?

[Abu-'Ayyash] It is clear that there is no disagreement about supporting and respecting our colleagues the Palestinian negotiators, as people and as delegates. After all, the negotiators live under occupation and are fully aware of the hardships. The issue is not the delegation, but whether we should attend this round of talks in light of continued human rights violations, the unresolved deportees issue, the siege imposed on Jerusalem, the division of the West Bank and Gaza into cantons where one needs permits to move about, and the economic siege on the occupied territories. In view of this situation and in light of current Israeli policies, one wonders whether Israel, which does not respect human rights, will implement Resolution 242. How can it end the Arab-Israeli conflict and reach a comprehensive, just settlement? I believe it is Israel's policy to be hardline on human rights in order to drive a wedge between the Palestinian negotiator and the Palestinian public. Nevertheless, the Palestinian political decision to go to the talks was based on a thorough knowledge of the issues

and Israel's policies and on the need to maintain inter-Arab coordination and unity. The Palestinian negotiator must feel that he is strong, that he is doing his duty, and that he represents Palestinian political wishes, which are democratically determined. I do not deny that there is strong opposition—not to the delegation itself, but to attending this round of talks—and this round comes at a time when Israel continues to violate human rights. Israel uses this policy to pressure the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

U.S.-PLO Dialogue Said To Resume in Cairo 20 May

TA2704140393 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] The U.S. and Palestinian sides are getting ready to resume the dialogue between them on 20 May in Cairo. It has been learned from high-ranking sources that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas will head the Palestinian team, which will include Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, an aide to President 'Arafat, Sulayman al-Najjab, and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

The dialogue is to take place in Cairo. The American side will be headed by Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in the Egyptian capital. The PLO has obtained, through Cairo, a U.S. promise to resume the dialogue. This is one of the promises obtained by the PLO during contacts held over Palestinian participation in the ninth round of negotiations.

PNC Asks Egypt To Help Lift Israeli Security Cordon

NC2504144793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, 25 Apr (MENA)—Members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] appealed to Egypt today to try to convince Israeli authorities to lift the security cordon imposed on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This came in a message Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Wajih Hamdi received when he met a PNC delegation today. The delegation included Mustafa Milhim, Sharif al-Ja'bari, and Ibrahim Qubba'ah.

PFLP's 'Ali al-Salih Interviewed on Future Plans

PM2704133793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 7

[Interview with Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by 'Ali al-Salih in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Salih] What is the alternative the Front is proposing in present conditions and under the new present world order?

[Mustafa] The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] has explained its alternative to the Madrid-Washington course in its published political rhetoric and at Palestinian leadership meetings. It made this clearer at the Palestine Central Council session held last October. It believes that putting things right is part of the international agenda and is taken into account in the political factors used to justify responses to something new. The elements which the Popular Front submitted are as follows:

1. To give precedence in national action to the intifadah and to strengthening it and bolstering the elements for its continuation, because a negotiator without action will have no political influence. And the intifadah is a permanent political action for specific political aims reinforced by comprehensive national unity.

2. To consider the framework of the invitation a UN framework on the basis of recognizing the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and as the political authority, thus not allowing the U.S. monopoly and Israel to set their criteria for the political process. The criteria should be international, and the permanent member states of the Security Council and the United Nations as an establishment should participate in them.

3. We also proposed that the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestinian issue be regarded as the basis for discussion, not limiting this to one resolution which gives the Israeli Government the right to make its interpretations in accordance with Bush's reply and guarantees.

4. Discussion of any solution should proceed from recognition of the principle of withdrawing from the land and recognizing Palestinian rights and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In the light of the preceding, the official leadership in harmony with the U.S.-Israeli plan was forced to respond verbally to our opinion and realistic political alternative by adding a clause at the Central Council session in question (clause V), emphasizing this alternative if the negotiations reach an impasse. And here they are today admitting that they have reached an impasse. So why are they continuing to follow the obligatory path, as they call it?

[Al-Salih] If you have strong support in the occupied territories, as you say, why do you not work to frustrate it from inside the territories?

[Mustafa] The strong support for our position and view is not our own claim. Poll centers acknowledge this. They say that 84 percent of those questioned say they do not support the continuation of the negotiations.

The answer to the second part of the question is: Who can claim that the Popular Front is not struggling from

inside the territories? We do not always limit the question to that tangible presence. We reinforce it by struggle among the ranks of the people. We always shoulder the responsibility for arousing national awareness among the people's ranks to protect the national program. [passage omitted]

[Al-Salih] What is the nature of the relationship between the Front and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and on what foundations is the alliance between you centered?

[Mustafa] Our relationship with Hamas centers on joint struggle against the Zionist enemy and against the course of the liquidation settlement [al-taswiyah al-tasfawiyah]. This is the nature of the stage... a national liberation stage. It is in the interests of all groups of the people and their social and political forces to defeat the occupation and liberate the homeland. It is a long struggle mission which needs all the forces, regardless of their ideological colors. [passage omitted]

[Al-Salih] Finally, do you expect the peace process to achieve this year what can be considered tangible progress?

[Mustafa] Without doubt this year is crucial. The United States as the deciding power in the Madrid process is seeking to achieve for its political status results based on the principle of imposing stability in the region to protect its and Israel's interests.

How? The answer lies in what Clinton said in his meeting with Rabin recently, namely "strategic partnership." So Israel's share is part of U.S. gains, and Israeli gains strongly reinforce Israel's share. [as published] As for the Arab and Palestinian parties, they will have no achievements, because the basis from which the settlement plan proceeded is erroneous and getting involved in it was a sin. And as even the minimum it announced in the assurances letter is no longer binding on the United States in terms of its participation and sponsorship, and as the United States has sanctioned Israel's right to interpret Resolution 242, which already does not answer all questions, how can we expect progress for the Arab parties, including the Palestinians?

So ahead of us is a year full of rage and failures. And ahead of us also is a year in which national struggle will escalate for years to come. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Arrests Made in al-Sharif Attack, Other Incidents

NC2704160793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] In the framework of the intensive search operations for the members of the terrorist organization who recently carried out a series of violent acts and bombing attacks in a number of public gathering places and tourist and archaeological sites with the aim of spreading an atmosphere of chaos and confusion and undermining public security, the Interior Ministry combed the scenes of the incidents and gathered eyewitness information concerning the description of the perpetrators and the method of their escape from the scene of the crimes.

Using forensic and other evidence, State Security Intelligence has discovered the identity of the terrorist elements suspected of carrying out such incidents and crimes as the assassination attempt against Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif in Heliopolis and the explosion of a bomb in the Civil Defense and Fire Office in al-'Atabah.

Evidence suggests that the perpetrators are members of one of the al-Jihad Organization groups who spent time in Afghanistan undergoing advanced military training in combat and the use of explosives. These members received orders from the leaders of the organization abroad to return to Egypt to carry out their terrorist schemes.

The outcome of investigation suggests that these individuals are responsible for planting an explosive charge under one of the tourist buses near the Egyptian Museum in al-Tahrir square in Cairo and throwing an explosive charges at another tourist bus in al-Haram.

In light of the available information, a State Security Intelligence unit and al-Daqahliyah Criminal Intelligence on 24 April, having obtained a warrant from the Higher Security Investigation Office, raided an apartment used as a hideout by the suspects, situated on al-'Ahd al-Jadid street in al-Mansurah. The unit arrested the following leaders of the terrorist plot:

1. Tariq 'Abd-al-Raziq Hasan Isma'il Yusuf, born in 1964 in Qina, a former student at the Commerce College of Sawhaj University.

2. Ahmad Husayn Ahmad al-Husayni, born in 1969 in al-Daqahliyah, a student at the Science College of al-Mansurah University.

3. Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al, born in 1967 in Asyut, unemployed.

4. Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim Salih, born in 1963, unemployed, and wanted by the police in connection with the killing of Dr. Faraj Fudah.

A number of forged passports, identity cards, driver's licenses, and official seals were found in their possession as well as a number of wigs that were ready for use to escape from the police. Weapons, ammunition, and explosive charges were also found in their possession, including two automatic rifles, two magazines including 30 rounds each, 26 7.26-mm rounds, two grenades, a 9-mm pistol, a magazine containing nine rounds, and a plastic bag containing a fuse and a kerosene burner.

A list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of some public figures was also found in the apartment.

The security agencies carried out further raids on other hideouts of the organization in the governorates of al-Daqahliyah, al-Sharqiyah, al-Qalyubiyah, Cairo, and al-Jizah, arresting the following:

1. Hasan Ramadan 'Abdallah al-Sharaqani, born in 1966 in al-Fayyum, graduate of the Agricultural Cooperation Institute.

2. Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad al-Sayyid, born in 1966 in al-Jammaliyah, graduate of the Secretariat Institute, sackcloth merchant.

3. Hasan Muhammad Muhammad al-Sayyid, born in 1968, student at the Commerce College of 'Ayn Shams University.

4. Ahmad Muhammad Sadiq, born in 1965, electrical engineer.

Forged passports, identity cards, driver's licenses, birth certificates, and official seals as well as forgery tools were found in the hideouts, along with the following weapons and explosives: one 9-mm automatic rifle, two magazines, one pistol, 63 7.62-mm rounds, 16 grenades, 20 9-mm rounds, one explosive charge in a metal box, 22 electric circuit frames, 21 sticks of gelignite weighing eight kg, 163 electric detonators of explosive charges, two cloth sacks containing highly explosive material, a paste-like material in a plastic bag, two large hollowed-out books for possible use as booby traps, and one two-hour detonation timer. Coded organizational documents were also found.

Preliminary interrogation and forensic evidence indicate that the arrested individuals were involved in the crimes in the following manner:

1. The detonation of an explosive device under a tourist bus in al-Tahrir Square in Cairo on 16 March 1993—filed as case 1470/93 of Qasr al-Nil misdemeanors—was perpetrated by Tariq 'Abd-al-Raziq Hasan and Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Abd al-'Al.

2. The planting of an explosive device under a police car near al-'Atabah Square in Cairo, which later went off at the Civil Defense and Fire Brigade Headquarters on 27 March 1993—filed as case 1840/93 of al-Muski misdemeanors, was carried out by Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al and Hasan Ramadan 'Abdallah.

3. The throwing of an explosive charge at a tourist bus on al- Ahram Street in al-Jizah on 18 January 1993—filed as case 15 of Bulaq al-Dakrur—was carried out by Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim Salih.

4. The attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on 20 April—filed as case 144/93 higher state security—was carried out by Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al and Ahmad Husayn Ahmad al-Husayni. Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim provided them with the arms used in the attempt.

The suspects made initial confessions of planned assassinations of public figures and police officers as well as bombings of public gathering places and tourist sites. The confessions confirm earlier information obtained by State Security Intelligence to the effect that the following terrorist leaders living in Afghanistan are involved in planning and funding these terrorist attacks:

1. Mustafa Ahmad Hasan Hamzah, a wanted convict living abroad.

2. Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, a wanted convict living abroad.

3. Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, a wanted convict living abroad.

4. Tal'at Yasin Muhammad Hammam, a wanted convict.

The security agencies have seized Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad al- Sayyid's car and two motorbikes belonging to Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim. Members of the organization had planned to use these vehicles in future operations.

The Military Prosecution Office has begun interrogating the arrested suspects. The Interior Ministry urges citizens to cooperate with security organs to arrest the wanted individuals whose photographs appeared in newspapers on 22 and 24 April for involvement in and planning other acts of violence and terrorism.

[Paris AFP in English at 1506 GMT on 27 April carrie a related report that provides the following additional information: "Egyptian security forces have arrested five Islamic militants over an assassination attempt on Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif last week, police said. Police arrested four of them and seized Kalashnikov assault rifles allegedly used in the attack, when they raided an apartment in the northern town of al-Mansurah on Saturday.

["They captured the fifth man, identified as 29-year-old Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim and a suspect in the murder last year of author Faraj Fudah, on an al-Mansurah street the same day, police said. The suspects revealed the whereabouts of arms caches in the northern Cairo suburb of Shubra al-Khaymah, where security forces found 140 weapons of various calibres, ammunition, grenades and explosives, police said.

["According to Egyptian press reports, the five suspects also admitted responsibility for a bomb attack against a tour bus outside Cairo's main archeological museum in March, during which there were no casualties. They also claimed responsibility for another bomb attack last month in a central Cairo square, which killed a police officer, the reports said.

["A reliable source at the Interior Ministry declined to confirm the reports and told AFP that the men were still being interrogated."]

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces al-Sharif Attack

NC2704155493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood has denounced the assassination attempt on Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, which occurred on 20 April. In a statement, the Muslim Brotherhood stressed that this attack is an act of aggression and an outrage, which orthodox shari'ah and the Islamic religion do not condone or permit. Islam calls for the preservation of human life and God prohibits the shedding of human blood.

The Muslim Brotherhood said: Stirring up panic in society, terrifying innocent people, and seriously escalating the armed confrontation do not benefit the nation at all. Only the enemies benefit from such acts.

The Muslim Brotherhood renewed its call to the sons of the nation to stop the bloodshed immediately and to follow God's teachings so that the ordeal may end and the path of salvation appear.

Labor Party Leader Congratulates al-Sharif on Escape

NC2804043293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri on Wednesday [21 April] sent a cable to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif congratulating him on escaping an assassination attempt. The text of the cable says:

Mr. Safwat al-Sharif. We thank Almighty God on your escape from this sinful attack. My sincerest wishes to you for your good health and for success in serving our dear Egypt.

Shukri has also sent the following cable to Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for cabinet affairs:

We congratulate you on assuming this post which you deserve. I wish you good health and success in serving our dear Egypt.

New Interior Minister Discusses Approach to Terrorism

NC2704170793 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 25 Apr 93 p 16-18

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi by Ahmad Mustafa in al-Alfi's office on 19 April]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mustafa] What is your view of the issue of dialogue with jailed leaders of extremists and terrorists so that they may issue instructions to their supporters to end acts of violence and killing?

[Al-Alfi] I would like to tell everyone my view on this issue very frankly: With whom shall I hold a dialogue? Shall I hold a dialogue with a group of outlaws involved in killing, destruction, and crimes against the country's security? Shall I hold a dialogue with those who spread chaos, panic, killing of innocent Egyptians or our guest tourists, who come willingly to visit tourist sites, enjoy the Nile River, and get acquainted with the good Egyptian people? Is the concept of dialogue recently broached to talk to a group of misled and deviant people, who claim to represent Islam or make mendacious outcries to mislead youths? Is it reasonable to tell such misled extremists or terrorists to please stop acts of violence and terrorism and please come to talk? Who can say so or accept that the country's control be in the hands of a group of terrorists? I am not at all opposed to piety, because Egypt is a Muslim country, but this does not mean allowing a group of terrorists to wreak havoc in the country in the name of religion. By their criminal acts they offend Islam and try to destroy Egypt's economy by attacking tourists just because they believe tourism is a taboo.

As is well known, Egypt's annual income from tourism totals approximately $4 billion. This income contributed considerably and effectively to alleviating Egypt's economic problem. Is it reasonable for a foreign tourist to come to Egypt and pay thousands of dollars to see its great antiquities and then face violence, death, and terrorism? To confront terrorism and terrorists and extremist ideology, all Egyptian thinkers, clergy, writers, journalists, information media, teachers, professors, and youth organizations should cooperate and launch continuous intensive enlightenment campaigns in towns and villages in Upper and Lower Egypt to show the youths what to do for their homeland and compatriots and to stay away from misleading individuals who uphold deviant thoughts. I particularly call on authors and producers of plays, serials, and films to consider the circumstances Egypt is passing through and not exaggerate in highlighting scenes that may harm Egypt's reputation and lead to deviation. I call on every man who holds a position of responsibility, from village chief to governor, to set a good example to the people and to act constantly to ensure absolute justice for all citizens so that every citizen may feel that he lives in his homeland and not in a society of classes and alienation.

[Mustafa] What is your opinion of the announcement on giving a reward of 50,000 pounds to any citizen who informs the police about a terrorist?

[Al-Alfi] Naturally the state encourages everyone to carry out positive and unusual work that leads to a benefit or to the disclosure of grave incidents against society and the country's security. Such awards are given in almost all countries. However, the danger lies in the fact that this announcement was widely advertised in the newspapers and the various media, transferring it into a double-edged weapon that might be exploited by many people to harm others.

[Mustafa] Do you believe in the policy of confronting violence with violence?

[Al-Alfi] Frankly speaking, my opinion on this subject—and I have just assumed the interior minister's post—is that any departure from legitimacy must be confronted with violence. However, I would like to clarify a very important point, namely that unrestrained violence is wrong. For example, to arrest a person or a small group of terrorists, security men are not supposed to open fire indiscriminately at innocent people.

I believe every citizen in Egypt must feel he is governed by the law and that there is no discrimination between one citizen and another before the law. My plan, principle, and the course I will follow at the Interior Ministry is to confront anyone who breaks the law by exposing his methods and deviation,, provided that such measures are not applied against all citizens. This will reduce the number of harmful people or those who work against their homeland. I will remain a friend to every honest citizen who loves his homeland and works for its interest. I will never change, nor will I change my belief, principle, or behavior toward the people.

[Mustafa] You were the governor of Asyut for three years and one month. What is your view of terrorist revenge? The terrorists in Asyut have declared that they will take their revenge on policemen.

[Al-Alfi] In my view, such acts—as I have stated previously—are a big mistake. Confrontation is only against those who break the law. As for the rest of the citizens, they are like my father, brothers, and sons.

[Mustafa] Do you believe that terrorists and terrorism can be eliminated for good? How long will this take?

[Al-Alfi] I do not doubt that we can eliminate terrorism and terrorists through full religious enlightenment of the citizens, in addition to achieving economic development, raising the standard of services for all citizens, setting them a sound and good example, and upholding justice for all citizens without discrimination. All people are citizens first and foremost. If this is done, it will be easy to fight terrorism and the terrorists and to eliminate them for good. There are some corrupt and deviant elements who are exploiting unemployment and the deviation of some youths against their country's interest.

[Mustafa] Do you believe in the policy of dialogue with and appeasement of the terrorists and extremists?

[Al-Alfi] How can I hold a dialogue or appease an outlaw? No dialogue can be held with outlaws. The word "outlaw" means everything illegal. If there should be an ideological dialogue about religion or Islam, this should be undertaken by religious men from al-Azhar and other specialized scholars.

[Mustafa] There is a question I want to ask you in your capacity as an Egyptian citizen and not as interior minister. Have you been satisfied with the way terrorism or the terrorists have been dealt with on the security level?

[Al-Alfi] (laughing and shaking his head) I think that everything I have said before answers your question.

[Mustafa] What does Hasan al-Alfi, the new interior minister, want to say to the citizens?

[Al-Alfi] I want to say to every citizen that the policeman, irrespective of his rank, is primarily an Egyptian citizen who is fulfilling a duty to maintain stability and to protect and serve the citizen. All citizens must cooperate with the police in combating terrorism. They must not regard the policeman as their enemy.

I declare here and now that the door of my office is open to every citizen and every police officer who wants to see me at any time.

[Mustafa] I think that all the people in Egypt and in the Arab world and all Egyptians abroad want to get acquainted with Hasan al-Alfi, the new interior minister. The question is: Who is Hasan al-Alfi?

[Al-Alfi] I can say that my example in life from childhood has been 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab [second caliph], may God be pleased with him. As we know, he was firm, decisive, and forceful in supporting what is right. He supported the weak until they got their rights from the strong. At the same time, he was merciful and just. He appointed suitable, uncorrupt, and devout leaders in appropriate positions.

[Mustafa] Those citizens or police officers who do not know you would like to know: Are you a firm or a lenient man?

[Al-Alfi] I fully believe in God's words in the holy Koran: "Thus have we made of you a nation justly balanced." I am neither tough nor lenient. Furthermore, I also believe in the saying: Don't be lenient so you will be squeezed nor so stiff you will be broken.

[Mustafa] Can the interior minister's position change the behavior and ethics of the one who occupies it?

[Al-Alfi] I tell you honestly and frankly that I am not a man who will allow his position to change his behavior and ethics. Everything in this world is a vanity. The most important thing in life is for a person to be on good terms with the Almighty God, behave according to his conscience, and take stock of his actions before he goes to bed.

Reasons for Musa's Dismissal Detailed

NC2704191293 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 25 Apr 93 p 18

[Text] It has been learned that former Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was relieved of his post because he announced in the press that he intended to hold a dialogue with imprisoned leaders of extremists and terrorists so they could mediate with terrorists unknown to the security services to make them stop their terrorist operations in return for the leaders' release from prison. The former minister announced that the Interior Ministry would pay a reward of 50,000 pounds to anyone with information about any terrorist. It is believed that by doing so he weakened the position of the Interior Ministry and the various security services in the eyes of the public and the terrorists. Another reason was the indiscriminate shooting and killing of innocent people during the attacks on the hideouts of certain terrorists.

Interior Ministry Appeals for Information on Suspects

NC2704141793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 13

["Appeal" issued by the Interior Ministry; date not given]

[Text] The Interior Ministry appeals to citizens to help locate or give any information about the following terrorists, who were involved in recent criminal acts and are planning new terrorist operations.

The ministry urges anyone who can identify the killers to call the following telephone numbers soon: 3549937, 3541620, 3545354, and 3546398, public security authority; 5100122 and 5100222, Cairo Security Directorate; or the nearest police station to express rejection of terrorism and terrorists.

Ahmad Faruq 'Abd-al-Hamid Jad-al-Rabb, born in Bani Suwayf on 22 January 1971, holder of a vocational training diploma and living in al-Ghamrawi, Bani Suwayf.

Plumber Muhammad Sha'ban Muhammad Hasanayn, born in Cairo on 9 March 1956, and living in al-Bahr Street, al-Wahat al-Dakhilah, Alexandria.

Islam Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim al-Ghamri, born 22 October 1966, a student at al-Da'wah College and living in 'Izbat al-Dabbabat, Abu 'Atwah, Ismailia.

Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim Salih, born in 1963, holder of a vocational training certificate and living at 1 al-Minufiyah Street, which branches from Imam al-'Abd Street in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra'.

Nazih Nushi Rashid Ahmad, born 4 December 1958, living in al- Sahil, Cairo, and a student at the College of Commerce, al-Zaqaziq University.

Fugitive Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, born 1 April 1968 in Masarah, where he lives, holder of a vocational training certificate but unemployed, of medium height, medium build, dark skinned with a broad forehead.

Fugitive Tal'at Muhammad Yasin Muhammad Hammam, born 1 June 1963, holder of an engineering degree

and living in al-Matafi' Street, Suhaj. He is short, thin, dark skinned, and has a large nose.

Fugitive 'Isam Karram Hasan, born in Dayrut 3 October 1970, a student at Dar al-Muslimin in Dayrut, living in al-Mustaqbal Street. He is of medium height, dark skinned, medium build, with heavy eyebrows.

Fugitive Rif'at Zaydan 'Abdallah, born on 2 July 1970 in 'Izbat 'Abd-al-Baqi in Dayrut, Asyut. A student at the Commercial Technical Institute, he is dark skinned, of medium build, and tall.

[The appeal is accompanied by head and shoulders photographs of the wanted men, each one identified by a caption underneath, which appear three-deep across two columns at the top of the page]

Minister Says Extremists Seek To Infiltrate Education

NC2704142793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1131 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has affirmed that Egypt, with all its venerable institutions, is capable of deterring all attempts to undermine its security and stability.

Speaking at a meeting of the education committee in the National Democratic Party, the education minister said that the ministry is alert to and in control of all extremist attempts to infiltrate educational institutions.

He pointed out that the extremist current wanted to control education and use it as a means to seize authority and influence 12 million students at various levels over a 10-year period.

The education minister revealed an extremist scheme which sought to impose on educational institutions certain mechanisms through which they could infiltrate teachers' colleges, have access to education workers, and subsequently teach extremist ideas through state educational institutions.

Baha'-al-Din explained that the extremist current seeks political goals cloaked in religious garb in order to demonstrate its power and terrorize officials. He affirmed that their attempts in the governorates have failed.

Policeman Shot Dead in Upper Egypt Village

NC2804102693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Asyut, 28 Apr (MENA)—Unknown assailants shot dead conscript Husayn Kamil Barakat of the Dayrut police force near the railway station in Bani Qurrah this morning.

Asyut security forces are surrounding the area in search of the culprits.

U.S. Dialogue With Extremists Shows 'Trickery'

NC2704133193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 9

[Article by Salah-al-Din Hafiz: "United States and Dialogue With Extremists"]

[Text] There are many who will not believe that the United States—our strong ally—plays so many games around here that it holds a dialogue with representatives of Islamic extremism and terrorism, which practices violence that is probably unprecedented in Egypt!! Yes, there are many who will not believe U.S. representatives have been holding meetings and conducting dialogue for two years, and possibly more, with representatives of the "Islamic Group," one of the two wings of extremism and violence, and the al-Jihad Organization. We could not claim there was such contact without evidence, so we waited a long time before bringing the issue to the attention of the public. The Americans gave one sign after another; the latest was the important report published by the well-known and influential NEW YORK TIMES, which has close ties with ruling circles and the CIA.

THE NEW YORK TIMES published a report last week in which it confirmed that representatives of the extremist "Islamic Group" in Egypt, who regard Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who resides in New York, as their leader and guide, held regular meetings with officials from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, who must be connected with the CIA, from 1990 regularly through 1992, stopping them only at the beginning of 1993, after the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York of which people associated with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman have been accused; they are now under investigation!!

The report in THE NEW YORK TIMES put an end to denials reiterated by official U.S. spokesmen, the last of which was on 12 April in an attempt to deny specific facts that indicate various levels of U.S. officials have contacted and held dialogue—and might still be doing so—with representatives of the Islamic groups that are waging an unprecedented war of terror and violence against everything in Egypt and other Arab countries to destabilize the regime and open the way to the unknown by force!

Despite official denials by Washington, the report in THE NEW YORK TIMES reconfirms that officials from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo refused to deny its reports about the contacts with the Islamic Group that began in 1990 and continued until 1993. The refusal to deny these reports is a sort of admission, particularly in light of the fuss caused by the State Department denial in the past few weeks. In recent months, U.S. media published extensive reports and analyses about the future of Egypt and several Arab countries after the "political Islamic trend" has imposed itself on political life and exploited social instability and the economic crisis to foment trouble and herald a public collapse and prepares to assume power!

Great exaggeration characterizes the campaign waged by the U.S., European, and Israeli media, which herald the rocking of the regime and the imminent ascent of the political Islamic trend. These exaggerations are based on some information and facts. The first is that many political, official, and intelligence circles in the United States and Europe are rearranging their cards and reviewing their policies toward Egypt and the Arab region on the assumption that developments and possibilities require the opening of channels of communication with the "opposition" of every hue and color, including the most extremist ones, even if this is done behind the back of friendly and allied regimes.

We believe the new U.S. directions herald major changes in policies. For 20 years, that is, since President Anwar al-Sadat took over after the death of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, Egyptian-U.S. relations remained ties of close alliance, strengthened after the Camp David agreement was signed by Egypt and Israel under U.S. sponsorship. This relationship was characterized by annual U.S. military and economic aid to Egypt reaching $2.1 billion in addition to political and moral support.

The outlines of the new policies toward the Middle East and the establishment of new regional alliances have started to emerge in the United States and Europe. Policies go beyond the Arabs to reach the Turks, Persians, Pakistanis, and Israelis. They do not limit attention to the Arabs and do not see Egypt as the only pivot of action and movement.

As part of the new trend, some people promote the notion that the United States no longer recognizes Egypt as a country of moderation, stability, and balance, in light of the complexities of political, social, and economic tension and the increasing activity and rising violence of Islamic political extremist groups, which offer themselves as a potential alternative in power. On this premise, the United States opened direct channels of communication with Islamic political groups—extremist and moderate. U.S. media have revealed some of these contacts, while the most important and prominent parts remain hidden behind a veil. The argument is that a country as big as the United States and with such influence in Egypt must not be left in the dark about events in the country, must not side with one party against the other (is that so?!), and must not abstain from initiating contacts with all the forces and parties so that it does not repeat the mistake of the Iranian experience, when it was taken aback by the fast-breaking events in Iran, which led to the occupation of its embassy in Tehran and the famous hostage crisis!!

As much as there is pragmatic opportunism typical of the famous Machiavellian policy in these arguments now common in the U.S. media, there is also confusion, trickery, and a devious mix-up, or rather, flagrant ignorance of what is truly happening in Egypt and of the nature of its people and their disposition, which is against extremism, violence, and terrorism. Emphasizing that the extremism, terrorism, and violence ablaze in Egypt are for domestic reasons relating to the choking socioeconomic crisis, which needs a radical solution different from anything the government is doing, we also stress that the new trends in U.S. policy, including the dialogue with the extremist and terrorist groups to "guarantee the future," are erroneous inclinations that place a deadly bet on cases that are basically lost. This would cost the United States dearly in terms of its vital interests in the region. Gambling on extremism is foolish and holding a dialogue with violence acknowledges the legitimacy of violence and admits the charge that we, and others, have held against the U.S. policy; namely, encouraging and courting religious extremist groups for long years on a regular basis, despite the denial of those who have an interest in not saying so!!

Instead of these adventurous U.S. inclinations, which back a losing horse, it would have been better to gamble on the real democratic alternatives, which are many and deep-rooted in our country. It would have been better to hold a dialogue with the enlightened political, social, and intellectual forces that believe in democratic legitimacy. Despite the constraints, these forces are working hard to speed up the democratic progress and comprehensive development that could guarantee for the frustrated, miserable, and poor masses a good deal of freedom and social justice and save them from the perils of falling into the trap of the fanatic, extremist, and terrorist groups.

We know some people will be surprised, even shocked, by these words and accusations leveled against "our master and lord the United States." We also know that many will rise in defense and denial, but we know all this will change nothing. The charge exists and is published in U.S. media; we did not invent it. We also know it is up to us and our will to save the homeland from the pits of misguidance and the traps of deception, never mind its choking crises. So let the issue be in our own hands, not the hands of others.

Mubarak Appoints Assistant Defense Minister, Others

NC2704151493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued a republican decree appointing Staff Major General Ahmad Muhammad Wahdan as assistant defense minister, Staff Major General Ihab Mustafa 'Ulwi as chief of operations of the Armed Forces, and Staff Major General Sa'd Hasan 'Ali Abu-Ridah as commander of the 2d Field Army. The decree also appoints Staff Major General Ahmad Ahmad 'Amir commander of the 3d Field Army, and Staff Major General Mustafa Muhammad 'Afifi Isma'il commander of the western military zone. [passage omitted]

Ministers Leave for Talks With IMF Officials in Washington

NC2804104593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz left Cairo for Washington today to join an Egyptian economic delegation that has already arrived there. [passage omitted]

The delegation will hold talks with IMF officials about the second Egypt-IMF agreement, which writes off 15 percent of Egypt's foreign debt.

Role in Sudan's Fuel Crisis Denied; Libya Blamed

NC2604195893 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 9

[From "The Last Moment" section]

[Text] Not only did the Sudanese Government lie when it said that Egypt prevented two oil tankers heading for Sudan from passing through the Suez Canal—a claim denied by Presidential Press Office Chairman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im—but it also tried to implicate Egypt in Sudan's energy and fuel crisis. This energy crisis was so bad that life in Khartoum came to a complete standstill, with public and private transportation not allowed to move and gasoline rationed.

The Last Moment has learned that the true reason for Sudan's fuel crisis was the failure of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's visit to Libya. He returned empty-handed, with Libya refusing to supply the fuel Sudan used to receive from Libya—namely, two shiploads per month. Al-Bashir was surprised to find the Libyan leaders asking him to repay Sudan's debts to Libya, estimated at $600 million, and setting several conditions for normal relations between Tripoli and Khartoum. The conditions were:

—The need for Sudan to improve relations with Egypt and the countries of North Africa. These relations have recently deteriorated in an unprecedented manner after accusations that the Khartoum government sponsors terrorism.

—The need for al-Bashir to cut his ties with [National Islamic Front leader Hasan] al-Turabi. The Last Moment learned that one of the Libyan leaders told al-Bashir: We want to know your true affiliation—whether it is with the National Islamic Front or others—so that we can establish clear relations.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi's Aide Confirms Jews May Enter Libya

TA2804113693 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 28 Apr 93 p 16

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] In a phone call to his office last Saturday, 'Abdallah Mansur, Libyan President al-Qadhdhafi's personal aide, said that Jews of Libyan extraction who do not wish to return to their motherland and who left behind property would be allowed to enter Libya to negotiate compensation for confiscated property. Mansur also confirmed that Libya is examining the possibility of allowing Libyan Muslim pilgrims to visit Jerusalem en route to Saudi Arabia for the hajj. This was the first time that a Libyan official talked to an Israeli journalist.

'Abdallah Mansur is al-Qadhdhafi's "project manager" in charge of various missions. He works out of al-Qadhdhafi's bureau in Tripoli, and his office is next door to that of the leader.

He was initially astonished to hear that his interlocutor was an Israeli journalist; all the more so, since he hardly ever talks to journalists. Later, however, curiosity apparently got the best of him and he did not hesitate to confirm recent reports attributed to al-Qadhdhafi. Mansur speaks fluent English, served in various diplomatic posts in Europe, and is described as "the only man in al-Qadhdhafi's gang who does not behave like a gangster."

Mansur has been hard at work to organize an international convention of representatives of the three monotheistic religions in Libya in June. He said Jews of Libyan extraction would be able to attend.

Those who think that happy days are here at last and that al-Qadhdhafi will soon be joining the talks in Washington are in for a surprise. A source close to al-Qadhdhafi told us this week that the Libyan leader is bothered by a possible worsening of the sanctions against Libya, particularly on oil exports. This is the reason for his new attitude toward Jews of Libyan extraction. In contrast, another source claims that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has a lot of influence over the Libyan leader, who consults him about almost every step he takes. Al-Qadhdhafi's moderate stance should be seen against the background of the Egyptian president's influence and the objective tough situation Libya is currently in.

Whatever the case may be, it will still be some time before we see Israeli and Libyan representatives seated around the negotiating table. Nevertheless, the moderate tone used by al-Qadhdhafi's aide is a promising start.

Officials Comment on Lockerbie Crisis

Representative to Arab League

NC2604201093 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan permanent representative to the Arab League, by AKHIR SA'AH correspondent Usamah 'Ajjaj, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] A year has passed since the siege was imposed on Libya in accordance with a Security Council resolution. Life there has been tremendously affected: Hundreds of Libyans have died because the air embargo prevented their transfer abroad for medical treatment; hundreds of others have died in accidents on the land routes, which are now the only link between Libya and neighboring Egypt and Tunisia. The Libyan Arab Airlines is finished as a business. The country's defense capability has also been affected. A year has passed since the siege was imposed, but the question remains: What is the way out of this crisis? The United States, France, and Britain, the parties to the crisis, and Libya agree that the suspects must be put on trial for the truth to become known. They also agree that reparations must be paid to the victims' families. The disagreement is over where to hold the trial. There is talk about a possible compromise venue—not London, Washington, or Tripoli. Another idea being discussed is to form a special UN- supervised tribunal.

It is certain that no one knows the Lockerbie dossier better than Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, who has supervised developments from the beginning when he was foreign minister. In a long interview with AKHIR SA'AH, he revealed much about the recent developments of this issue, Tripoli's relations with the Clinton administration, and other matters.

['Ajjaj] The natural opening of this dialogue would be to ask about the prospects for solving the Lockerbie problem, a year after it was first raised. The three countries concerned apparently wish to tighten sanctions on the Jamahiriyah, after the last deadline ends and before the next Security Council meeting.

[Al-Bishari] Let us say this: Now that a new U.S. democratic administration has come to power, with which we have no old accounts to settle and no friction, we must list the things we agree on and the things we disagree on. We agree, for instance, that an issue exists—a judicial issue, even though it has been politicized and taken to the Security Council—and that an accusation has been leveled at two Libyans, suspected of a connection with the blowing up of the U.S. airliner. We believe they and Libya are innocent. We acknowledge, however, that an accusation is being leveled and agree with the U.S. Administration that they must be put on trial so that the truth might come out and the victims' families might be satisfied that justice has been done. We also accept the principle of just reparations. All these points represent common denominators between us and U.S. ideas on this issue. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] We have noticed that the Libyan Foreign Ministry issued a statement praising President Clinton and his recent statements although he has stressed that Libya must abide by the UN Security Council resolution and hand over the suspects for trial in the United States. Is Libya flirting with the new U.S. democratic administration?

[Al-Bishari] President Clinton has announced that the issue has legal aspects and that the aim is to hold a fair trial. We all agree on this point and Clinton deserves praise for it. Additionally, we have no problems with this new administration. The situation was different with the former U.S. Administration which committed aggression against us in 1986 and bombarded the brother leader's house, killing one of his daughters and many other innocent citizens in Banghazi and Tripoli during their sleep. U.S. combat aircraft raided us in Surt, killing many Libyan sailors and sinking their craft. Some of our planes were downed in the Mediterranean. We have no ill intentions toward the new U.S. Administration and I believe it has no ill intentions toward us or any ulterior political motives. Only the Lockerbie issue remains unresolved and we want to solve it without injuring them but without conceding any of our sovereignty. We want to solve it with the help of the common and clear-cut denominators between us. No other problem has assumed such a political character and has remained unsolved. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Do you know how far the United States is prepared to accept a UN court?

[Al-Bishari] I honestly do not know the American position because this has not been raised officially. There might have been some talk behind the scenes, but we have certain information that the U.S. Administration is no longer thinking negatively about Libya, its people, and its leadership.

['Ajjaj] Could you give us some concrete examples indicating a change in the views of the U.S. Administration toward Libya?

[Al-Bishari] The recent report prepared by officials in charge of watching terrorist activity in the world says that Libya is not involved is such activity. Public opinion is not as mobilized against Libya as it was before; things are being raised more calmly. But this should not deceive us into believing that the problem is now over. We still want a solution and we need to work hard to solve the problem for the sake of all sides. In fact, when I say that the circumstances are now different, I do not mean to be optimistic. I emphasize that there is a problem, an obstacle that must be removed. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Is it true that the Libyan leadership is postponing acceptance of a handover until it receives guarantees that the interrogations or trial will not touch other people—maybe influential figures in the Libyan leadership?

[Al-Bishari] This is absolutely not the case. The true and only reason for rejecting the handover lies in Libyan laws. They unequivocally prevent the government from handing over any Libyan citizen accused of committing a crime abroad; such a citizen must be tried in Libya. The Geneva Convention, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and Libya's Major Green Document on Human Rights do not allow us, as officials, to arrest citizens and hand them over to foreign countries, as this would automatically mean giving up Libya's independence and sovereignty. We are very sensitive to the question of Libya's sovereignty. Our people struggled for many centuries to gain independence from foreign colonialism. We offered tremendous sacrifices in the fight against the Turkish and Italian colonialism until Libya gained its independence—an independence that became fully certain only in 1969 [the year al-Qadhdhafi assumed power], and when the foreign bases were removed in 1970. We are a small nation, numbering no more than 4 million. We are very sensitive to any attempt to harm our sovereignty. If we demolish Libyan laws in this issue, we may be demolishing the foundations of the Libyan society and its legal system. So, it is not that we fear that other people or officials may be implicated. The reason we are not handing over the suspects is purely legal, not political. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Have there been any attempts to open a channel of communication between the new U.S. Administration and the Libyan leadership?

[Al-Bishari] This dossier is being handled by Egypt. As I have previously stated, President Mubarak has made great efforts to end this crisis and open a dialogue between Libya and the United States. We hope our Egyptian brothers' efforts will be fruitful because this will be a success not only for Egypt but for all Arabs, especially as the Arab brothers have begun to view the issue as an Arab one and not a confrontation between Libya and the West.

['Ajjaj] Can Libya in its capacity as one the bulwarks of stability in North Africa and the Arab Maghreb countries play a role in confronting the rise of fundamentalism, which is threatening the whole region? Is there a Libyan viewpoint on how to confront terrorism from which the Arab Maghreb countries are suffering?

[Al-Bishari] Certainly, Libya has enjoyed political stability for a long time. The wise leadership has experience dating to a quarter of a century. Libya does not suffer from fundamentalism. It has a philosophy and a vision of modern Islam, which rejects fanaticism and recourse to violence to solve problems. If the Lockerbie issue, which has greatly obstructed our thought and restrained our ideological, political, and diplomatic efforts, is resolved, Libya will contribute as an element of stability in North Africa and the whole region. Extremism is after all a social and economic problem which expresses itself in acts of violence and murder here and there. Libya with its resources has absorbed hundreds of thousands of our Arab brothers. This honors it and its people. Thanks to its huge oil wealth, Libya can certainly extend a hand of assistance to neighboring states to solve some of their economic problems. It can absorb hundreds of thousands of more workers. This will reflect positively on neighboring countries. Those who come to Libya will contribute to its development and prosperity. They will extend this prosperity to their families. This will create an active economic situation. Thus, we can partly contribute to reducing this phenomenon, though not totally eliminate it because it is much deeper than this and cannot be solved overnight.

First of all, we need a wide pan-Arab dialogue. In these times and in this changing world of various ideologies, we Arabs must decide what we want and where we are heading while we are on the threshold of the 21st century. With what values should we leave this century and head toward the future? What are the economic and social programs that can absorb the resources of our Arab youths? Do we agree with others and can we give examples to others? Are we influencing or being influenced by the states adjacent to the Arab world? The Arabs are the real Muslims. The prophet was an Arab. The Koran was handed down in Arabic. Islamic thought is written and read in Arabic. We do not need to learn anything in this field from foreigners, even if they are Muslims. None of our non-Arab brothers, even if they are Muslims, can be our teachers and give us lessons. This is because when they read the Koran, they read it with a foreign accent and interpret it in their own way. However, there is a beginning and an end to everything. Security measures alone do not solve the problem. Dialogue, democracy, human rights, social welfare, economic prosperity, justice, feelings of citizenship and affiliation, hope for the future, nondespair, and nondespondency lead to a solution. The current attempts to use Islam as a cover and to resort to violence to solve economic and social problems are wrong.

Ambassador to Tunisia

PM2704134093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Libyan Ambassador to Tunisia 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi in Paris by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din; date not given]

[Excerpts] Libyan Ambassador to Tunisia 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi has said that the dialogue which began between Libya and Britain "was suspended because the British looked at it as an intelligence issue, whereas Libya saw it as a start for a dialogue that serves our bilateral relations."

Al-'Ubaydi, who represented Libya in the dialogue with Britain, stressed in an interview with AL-HAYAH in a Paris hotel that the Libyan authorities agree to the suspects in the case of the blowing up of the U.S. PanAm plane and the French UTA plane being tried anywhere

except the United States and Scotland. "Because Libya refuses to treat its citizens as victims we hand over to others."

Al-'Ubaydi pointed out that the Libyan authorities' mere agreement to the suspects' departure from Libya "is considered a concession on its part."

On Britain's accusation that Libya was late in replying to questions it had submitted, Al-'Ubaydi said: "The problem is to do with the British. They raise the issue as though it is to do with information, not relations. Whereas we regard it as an issue of relations. When we entered that dialogue with the British we said that we renounce terrorism. And when we ascertained that the IRA is an organization which carries out terrorist actions, we ceased to support it. And we provided what, I believe, is beneficial to Libyan-British relations. As for them, they dealt with the issue as though it is an intelligence issue."

He added: "We suspended the dialogue because the British did not perceive the aim we are seeking to achieve. Nevertheless, we are still eager to implement Resolution 731 in a manner that respects international legitimacy and our country's sovereignty."

On the handing over of the Libyan suspects in accordance with Resolution 731, Al-'Ubaydi said: "There is no open stipulation in the resolution about handing over the suspects. It stipulates cooperation with British and French investigations—which we are doing. So if the Lockerbie case is to do with trial and reaching the truth, we agree with them in this regard. But to insist on interpreting the Security Council resolution as calling for handing over our citizens, I do not believe that any state which respects itself would agree to do that (...). If it is to do with trial, we agree to that, and let us choose an impartial court, neither in Libya—although international law permits this—nor the United States." [passage omitted]

"We accept an impartial trial (in any country) except Scotland and the United States. We do not object to conducting the trials in Geneva, Austria, or Germany, for example. But the problem is that these states make it conditional that the United States and Britain agree to that." [passage omitted]

He emphasized that "most Western states are satisfied with the Libyan view and with the concessions made by Tripoli to solve this problem. We are determined to continue the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution that takes account of these states' conditions. We know that the United States is facing a problem with public opinion as a result of the Lockerbie case. And France too is facing a problem because of the UTA case. This is why we are seeking together to reach the truth, which we can discover in any place we agree on. [passage omitted]

"We responded to and respected the resolution and implemented all its clauses except with regard to the place of the trial. We will continue this method in an attempt to persuade the United States under the new administration and [France] under the new French Government to reach the truth we are all aspiring to reach."

On the possibility of the sanctions being stepped up if Libya does not hand over its citizens suspected in the Lockerbie case, he said: "We do not wish the dispute to continue between us and the Western states, because they are important in the Security Council and we surely need them just as they need us. And I do not believe that the sanctions will continue forever. We will reach a solution." [passage omitted]

He expressed Libya's appreciation for the Arab seven-member committee's efforts with the U.S. Administration, the Security Council, and the United Nations. He said: "We appreciate especially the roles of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. But they cannot impose a certain position on the U.S. Administration. They have exerted their utmost efforts but the United States continues to maintain the same position, even though it no longer talks about toppling the regime. This is in the knowledge that we do not fear that approach. Because in the end it is the Libyan people who accept the regime or work to change it. We understood that the U.S. Administration could be more willing to hold a dialogue and listen to our view than the previous administration."

Foreign Minister

NC2704164593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, 27 Apr (MENA)—Following a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today, Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir said that he and Musa discussed a number of items on the agenda of the Islamic Conference Organization meeting as well as the agenda of the OAU summit in Cairo, due to be held in June.

Al-Muntasir said that his country's position on the crisis with the West is unchanged. Libya is willing to hand over the [Pan Am bombing] suspects for trial in any neutral country but the other side is hesitant in responding to the Libyan stand, he said, reiterating that his country denounces terror.

Sudan

Nine Arrested for Planning Sabotage, Assassinations

AB2804083793 Paris AFP in English 0522 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, April 28 (AFP)—Nine people have been arrested and accused of planning sabotage and assassinations with a view to seizing power in Sudan, according to a television report here. The nine people were shown handcuffed on state-owned Sudanese television.

The report of late Monday [26 April] said they had confessed to being part of a group which had undergone

training in Lebanon on how to blow up installations and make booby-traps and car-bombs.

Five of the nine detainees were said to be members of the illegal Sudanese Communist Party. One of them was identified as Mubarak Mohamed Jadein, a 30-year-old graduate of the Egyptian Zagazig University, who allegedly said he joined the Cairo-based opposition National Alliance in December 1991 on party orders.

Jadein was said to have taken orders from al-Hadi al-Bushra, a former security officer and now a leading figure in the Cairo-based Sudanese opposition, in coordination with retired Lieutenant-Colonel al-Tayeb Nouredayem Omran, also of the Communist Party.

Also named in the plot were two Alexandria University graduates, Osman Mahmoud Juma'a, 32, and al-Tiraifi al-Tahir Fadul, 30, according to the television report, as well as al-Hassan Ahmed Salih Mohamed, 39, an Ein Shams University graduate. All three were described as communists.

The group shown on the screen included Retired Colonel Mohamed Hassan Osman al-Zubayr, 44, a Khartoum businessman and member of the National Alliance who, according to the television report, served as a liaison between the Alliance and the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum.

The report said he was supposed to receive explosives from the Egyptian Embassy and pass them over to the single Ummah Party member, Ja'afar Yassin Abdallah, 33, who joined the Alliance last year and who served as a link between the Egyptian Embassy and the group.

The eldest member of the group was Retired Colonel Mustafa Ahmed Hassan al-Tai, 45. The ninth member of the group was 38-year-old Yassir Abu Zeid who identified himself as a Nasserite.

Foreign Minister on Hala'ib, Other Issues

NC2704152593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 13

[Report by Sami Kulayb from Paris]

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Isma'il Abu-Salih has implied that his country might concede the Hala'ib region to Egypt, but he demanded that Egyptian troops withdraw from the Hala'ib triangle before entering any negotiations, stating that getting rid of this obstacle is bound to maintain the countries' stability.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR during a stopover in Paris on his way to Cairo, where most Arab foreign ministers and the Sudanese opposition were meeting, Abu-Salih revealed that a governmental delegation visited Algeria to curb the tension between the two countries and that the U.S.-Sudanese dialogue continues on the highest levels.

Coming from Rabat, where he met Moroccan King Hasan II, the Sudanese minister outlined the new governmental approach to the upcoming negotiations with rebel leader Colonel John Garang. He explained the regime's relations with Islamist leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi and the reasons underlying the Western assault on Sudan.

Touching on the Rabat visit, Abu-Salih said: "I conveyed a message to the king from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. It was an opportunity to review the general situation in Sudan. King Hasan's envoy 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Talib visited Sudan last year and conveyed the king's initiative to clear the Arab climate. The message I carried to the king expressed our appreciation of Moroccan efforts and voiced support for the king's wise endeavors."

On King Hasan's view of the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute, Abu-Salih said: "We explained our stand to his majesty; it stresses that what happens in connection with Hala'ib is a symptom of an ailment that appears whenever relations between Cairo and Khartoum experience problems. The problem emerged in 1958 and reappeared recently. Depending on our strategy, and because we view Egypt as an Islamic, Arab, and African country, we believe normalcy must be restored and relations given the distinctive features they deserve. But we would like to stress the need to remove the obstacle represented by the Egyptian military presence in Hala'ib. The issue is not one of land, big or small. What counts is how to approach the issue. You remember that the joint committee nearly reached a solution in October 1991. It would have returned Hala'ib to Sudan. That is probably why the occupation came about and is now being imposed on us as a fait acompli. I repeat that the issue is not one of land. Sudan owns 1 million square miles, but will not relinquish one inch, certainly not by capitulation to force. Out of our own accord, we may view the issue as one of integration and welcome any Egyptian who wants to live among us. So we might give the land away of our own accord. This requires a positive atmosphere and the elimination of the military presence. Once this happens, we can proceed to settle the basic issues that led to tension in relations. This is what we told the Egyptian foreign minister in Addis Ababa."

Asked who is to blame for obstructing a settlement, the Sudanese foreign minister said: "The Egyptians need to take a step forward so that we can discuss the outstanding problems between our two countries. They say Sudan has become a transit point for exporting terrorism from Iran, although our relations with Tehran are relations between two states, exactly like our relations with Italy. If we are talking about an Islamic model, we in Sudan are Sunni—Malikites [followers of Malik Bin-Anas' School of Islamic Law]—while Iran is Shiite. We do not claim we want to export revolution and we do not seek to interfere in anybody's affairs."

On Khartoum's support for Islamic movements in the Arab world, the Sudanese minister said: "There is a

difference between declaring Islamic legislation in Sudan and [support for] Islamic movements. As you know, the government complied with the wishes of the Muslim people and Islamic shari'ah was applied by popular demand. There are Islamic movements in Egypt, but we deal with governments, not movements." He said the solution of the Hala'ib issue "could be achieved by military withdrawal, because there will be no negotiations under occupation."

Asked about the real reasons that brought the Hala'ib issue to the surface after a lull of almost 40 years, Abu-Salih said: "It may be important to discuss the reasons behind the Western and Arab onslaught on Sudan. We believe there are four factors behind this ferocious campaign. The first is south Sudan, which is raised when there is a desire to destabilize the country, which, if stable, would play a major role in Africa and the Arab world. Thus, they step up the accusations against us, sometimes under the claim of defense of Christianity and at other times in defense of human rights. The second point relates to our independent will, which was consolidated in 1991 when there was a famine or what we called then a food gap. At the time, the United States asked us to declare that we had become famine-stricken so that we could receive food, but we refused and said whoever wanted to help us was welcome. But we could not accept declaring a famine, because we refuse to be humiliated. The third reason is the Gulf war and the fourth is the application of Islamic shari'ah. Accordingly, Egypt had misgivings about three of these reasons. The Egyptians confuse between coordination and consultations and independent decision. Our stance on the Gulf war was different from theirs. Cairo considers south Sudan to be a domestic issue, while we believe the issue should concern it because any secession that may take place, God forbid, will create an area of tension for us and for the Egyptians too."

On Algeria's accusation that Khartoum supports the Islamists and on Sudan's relations with Algeria, Abu-Salih said: "We sent a high- level envoy to Algeria to persuade the brothers there to come to Sudan to see that we do not interfere in Algerian affairs. I visited Tunis before I became foreign minister, despite bilateral relations being severed. I also met the Algerian foreign minister in Addis Ababa. True, we have some Tunisian and Algerian brothers in Sudan, but they are refugees, like others."

Asked if he has convinced the Algerians of this, Abu-Salih said: "If they were convinced they would not have recalled their ambassador in Khartoum."

Abu-Salih said relations between Khartoum and Western capitals, particularly Washington, are on a collision course, "because the issue lies in the Sudanese example spearheading the confrontation with what is called the new world order."

On U.S.-Sudanese relations and whether they have improved through recent contacts, Abu-Salih said: "The Americans do not like it when we speak about progress or improvement. There is now an important dialogue to correct their inaccurate information."

He said the dialogue with Washington is being conducted through two groups from the two countries' foreign ministries. He said: "This dialogue began during the tenure of (former foreign minister) 'Ali Sahlul, but we do not want to talk about it before our relations reach a good level established on correct bases. We do not want to be hostile to the United States, but we will not kneel."

On whether he will meet Sudanese opposition leader 'Uthman al-Mirghani while he is in Cairo, he said: "We will talk with brother al-Mirghani. Putting personal factors aside, I call on every opposition trend inside and outside the country to return to Khartoum."

Asked who is governing Sudan—al-Bashir or Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, Abu-Salih said: "I am one of those who call for a balance based on the largest number of political trends entering into power. This balance is there. You cannot prevent al-Turabi from acting or any person from contacting the people. So I call for separating the government's official work from popular relations."

On the Abuja negotiations due to be held on 26 April and what Khartoum will offer John Garang, Abu-Salih said: "The peace program is based on four points. The first is power sharing. Here, we said that everything can be discussed within the framework of a united Sudan. We proposed a flexible federation through which agreement is reached to share authority, resources, and other things. But any talk here of secession will be categorically rejected, because if we accept this today, every tribe will demand its independence. As you know, there are 572 tribes in Sudan."

He added: "The second point is the sharing of resources, that is, laying down the economic and social program that can achieve an increase in production and a balanced development. We have made great progress in our preliminary negotiations on this question."

He went on to say: "The third point concerns identity. The truth is that we might be exaggerating when we stress that we are Arabs. Sudan is a mixture of races, languages, and religions. We will agree on a Sudanese identity."

As for the fourth point, Abu-Salih said: "That is religion. This was the basis of our differences. We said we will keep quiet about the state's official religion and say the majority are Muslim, some are Christian, and some are other and that freedom of belief will be maintained. Thus, the Muslims will rule according to the shari'ah in the north, while the south will be exempt from it. Provinces that do not want to apply the shari'ah can do so when they ask."

On whether Garang will agree with all the points, Abu-Salih said: "Garang is only one party in the opposition. The other parties were positive."

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Hala'ib, U.S. Ties

NC2704200593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 93 p 8

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Arafah] Have you agreed with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on resuming the talks on Hala'ib? If the problem is not resolved, will relations remain tense?

[Abu-Salih] We consider the Hala'ib issue a symptom of a malady in relations between the two countries. This symptom appears whenever Egyptian-Sudanese relations become tense. To treat this symptom, we must treat its causes. In other words, we must solve our problems and differences so relations can return to normal.

Sudan believes the dispute over Hala'ib is not a dispute over which country, Egypt or Sudan, has a legal claim to the land and its minerals. The dispute is over the approach. No matter how lukewarm relations may be, a solution must be reached through dialogue, negotiations, and quiet and objective language detached from incitement, provocation, and force. Therefore, we have called for correcting the approach and continuing the meetings of the technical committees. I mean that matters in the triangle should revert to what they were in October 1992. In addition to the meetings of the technical committees, political meetings should also be held.

My meeting with Musa was on the correct path. We discussed bilateral relations frankly and clearly. The dialogue's agenda was clear. We emphasized the need to verify every report, piece of information, or "suspicion" so that the truth will be known. (Verifying what is published about Sudan) This will assure both sides, remove their apprehensions, and enable them to correct their mistakes.

I hope relations will not only return to normal but also become excellent. Our relations with Egypt and the Arabs must be special. We live in a new world order that does not recognize small entities. The protection of each state takes place within the framework of a large grouping. This is why we have supported all sincere voices calling for transcending Arab differences, arriving at common ground, and safeguarding the nation. I came here to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting. Before that, I paid a visit to Morocco to deliver a message to King Hassan from Lieutenant General al- Bashir dealing with overcoming the differences among the Arab states. At the initiative of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, I was pleased by the Arab foreign ministers council's discussion of the issue of overcoming Arab differences.

['Arafah] Has a date been set to resume the talks on Hala'ib?

[Abu-Salih] We believe in the need for continuing communication and dialogue to arrive at our aim of establishing excellent Egyptian-Sudanese relations. We have agreed on resuming the talks but no date has been set yet.

['Arafah] Did you accuse Egypt of preventing two tankers carrying oil for Sudan from passing through the Suez Canal?

[Abu-Salih] I have stated no such thing. This is a lie. False reports were also published that Sudan would boycott the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo. I believe these reports were sensationalist and designed to prevent us from participating in the meeting. I mentioned this to Musa during our 75-minute meeting. I cautioned against false reports and called on the media to adhere to the truth. [passage omitted]

['Arafah] Sudan's relations with the West, especially the United States, are vague. Sometimes the contacts seem serious and the West looks like it understands Sudan's steps. Other times we are surprised by the West leveling accusations against Sudan and threatening intervention in south Sudan. What is the true picture of Sudan's contacts with the West?

[Abu-Salih] Our relations with the West and the United States are not okay. The position of the United States and Europe is vague. They are unhappy with the application of Islamic shari'ah in Sudan. They do not accept our Islamic civilization model, which is different from the Western civilization model. Whatever they issue are lies and attempts to pressure us. The United States is not pleased with us for the same reason. Our desire for dialogue with the West and the United States does not stem from fear or weakness. It is within the framework of ordinary dealing, human cooperation, mutual benefit, and not imposing a certain pattern of relations. We want our relations with the West to be based on the independence of our willpower. For this reason, the West is launching a ferocious onslaught on Sudan. [passage omitted]

Further on Minister's Comments

EA2304115593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, has stated that he recently discussed the Hala'ib issue with his Egyptian counterpart, and that they agreed that the only problem lies in the method of treatment. His Excellency asked that the technical committees between the two countries be given wider powers at this stage, in addition to intensifying contacts at the political level. He affirmed that meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization are considered as an opportunity for clearing the air and unifying the ranks, pointing out the information campaigns that are hostile to Sudan. It will be recalled that Sudan will participate in the meetings of the organization which will be held at foreign ministerial level, and will begin in Karachi, Pakistan on 26 April.

Sudanese 'Antiquities' Said Found in Hala'ib

EA2404161093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—The secretary-general of the National Authority for Antiquities and Museums, Professor Ahmad Ali Hakim, has affirmed that the antiques that were recently discovered at Karma area display Sudan's positive role in the development of human civilisation.

In a statement to SUNA, he said that a fortified town, dated back to the year 2600 B.C., has been discovered at the said area.

At Hala'ib Province he said, valuable Islamic antiquities have been discovered, many of which were before Islam antiquities [as received] and have a close relationship with central Sudan civilisation.

Army Spokesman on Effect of Mines on Southerners' Lives

EA2304152393 Khartoum SUNA in French 1630 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)—Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, spokesman of the People's Armed Forces, has affirmed that the indiscriminate use of mines by rebels in southern Sudan has had serious consequences on people and animals.

Speaking on the occasion of the international campaign for restricting the arbitrary use of mines, Gen. Uwaydah said that the practice caused fear among the people who were afraid to move freely in their areas, because of their ignorance on how mines are made. He said the rebels were placing mine traps in areas near clean water and along (?roads). Gen Uwaydah pointed out that land mines used in that way became accessible to children and citizens, due to their lack of knowledge of the danger they represented. The people were exposed to serious psychological, moral, and social consequences.

Gen. Uwaydah pointed out in his statement to SUNA that all international laws prohibited the indiscriminate use of mines, stressing that mined areas must be marked with precise signs. Mr. Uwaydah gave details of the physical, psychological, environmental, and technical effects caused by the use of mines. [passage omitted]

Decree Issued on External Information Council

EA2304125093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree forming an External Information Council under the supervision of the minister of culture and information and under the chairmanship of Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state for political affairs. Its membership consists of the secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and Information; the director of information in the Foreign Ministry; the director of the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY; a representative of the public security organ; the director of the general program of the radio; the director of television programs; a representative of the Sudanese Expatriates' Organization; the director of the Investment Corporation; the chief editor of SUDAN NOW; the chief editor of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI; a representative of the International People's Friendship Council, in addition to the secretary general of the External Information Secretariat as member and rapporteur.

The decree stipulates that the Council should be concerned with coordination between various information organs, provision of information, and follow-up and monitoring of external information, and the supervision of the work of foreign correspondents.

It also provided for the establishment of a secretariat for external information with an organizational structure and an independent budget comprising eight departments, besides the establishment of a press center in London that will be under the secretariat.

Arab Fund Suspension of Sudan Said 'Unrealistic'

EA2304122893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance, has described the decision of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to suspend the membership of Sudan, Iraq, and Somalia because of arrears as unrealistic, domineering, and harsh.

His Excellency said in a press statement that the decision was made at a recent meeting in Damascus of Arab financial establishments after the meeting had demanded the payment of the arrears within a short time, despite the circumstances of the states concerned. He explained that Iraq is not in control of the revenues from its oil nor is it allowed to sell except under the supervision of the United Nations. There is no government in Somalia, in addition to its need for financial revenues to tackle its rehabilitation, and Sudan has been waging a devastating war for a long period.

The finance minister said that nine states from an original twenty-two states supported the decision suspending membership, thereby exploiting their big contribution to the capital of the fund.

Assembly Urges Lifting of Arms Embargo on Bosnia

EA2304121893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] In its 21 April session, held under the chairmanship of Professor Muhammad al-Amin al-Basir, deputy speaker of the assembly, the Transitional National Assembly affirmed in a statement on continued Serbian aggression against the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina,

that the measures and resolutions adopted by the Security Council confirmed its failure to halt and deter Serbian aggression.

The assembly said it was necessary to use force to protect the people of Bosnia and to impose international legality. The assembly condemned, in its decision, the inhuman practices being carried out by the aggressive Serbian forces. It praised the continuing efforts of the government of the National Salvation Revolution to support the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The assembly asked the Sudanese Government to make maximum efforts in all international fora to support the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina, and to urge the international sides concerned to lift the ban imposed on arms imports into the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina, taking into consideration that self-defense is a fundamental right guaranteed by UN laws. The assembly asked parliaments of Arab, Islamic, and African states and other states to make greater effort, and to adopt more resolute stands to stop the aggression and to apply the international resolutions forthwith.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Gives Details on Plan To Kill Bush

NC2704161793 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait City, April 27 (AFP)—A would-be suicide bomber and other "terrorists" from Iraq planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush here earlier this month, the defense minister said Tuesday [27 April].

Agents sent by Iraqi intelligence entered Kuwait in several vehicles, including one with 80 kilograms (176 pounds) of explosives and another with 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of dynamite, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said.

Authorities arrested "14 people out of the 17 members of the network, including a kamikaze bomber who admitted his mission was to assassinate George Bush," during his April 14-15 visit, he said.

The three others were still at large.

"The suicide bomber was to set off explosives he had on him as the former U.S. President approached," the minister said.

Shaykh 'Ali said the gang had first planned to commit "a series of terrorist operations to destabilize Kuwait."

Bush, architect of the international coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War, "was not originally targeted" and the plot to assassinate him was "decided later," the minister added.

"Kuwaiti forces allowed the members of the network, whose plans they had discovered, to enter Kuwait so they could seize their agents in the country," he said.

Of the 14 arrested, three are Kuwaitis. Two of them are retired employees of the defense and interior ministries, police said.

The other suspects are Iraqis and biduns—who live in Kuwait but do not have Kuwaiti nationality, Shaykh 'Ali said.

Two years after the end of the Iraqi occupation Kuwait still faces the risk of "destabilization," he said. He called on Kuwaitis to be on their guard for the biduns, who number tens of thousands in Kuwait.

On Monday the Kuwaiti government announced it had arrested a gang of Iraqi saboteurs, but did not say what their mission was or how many were involved.

'Full Confessions' Obtained From Saboteurs

LD2704210793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A reliable source in the Interior Ministry announced the following statement on the terrorist plot which a network of saboteurs was going to execute after being sent in by the sinful Iraqi regime to disturb security and stability, terrorize, and carry out acts of sabotage against a number of installations and shops and residential areas in the country.

The source added that thanks to God Almighty and his help, the specialized units in the general department of the state security managed to capture all the 17 members of the Iraqi sabotage network. [passage omitted]

The source pointed out that the investigation authorities in the Interior Ministry have attained full confessions on the details of the criminal act. They also seized arms and explosives, tools and specialized technical equipment which the intelligence services of the tyrannical Iraqi regime gave them in addition to the booby-trapped car and the car they used in infiltration operations.

The source mentioned that the security forces found quantities of narcotics and alcoholic drinks in the possession of the network which was to be used as a cover for their vile aims. They also obtained the truth and aims of that criminal act and those behind it through full confessions by the saboteurs which are as follows:

First: The intelligence services of the treacherous Iraqi regime sent them to the country by infiltration using two cars that had been prepared by Iraqi intelligence. It was discovered that they were stolen from Kuwait during the tyrannical Iraqi invasion.

Second: Iraqi intelligence arranged and booby-trapped one of the two cars to damage and sabotage a number of installations and shops in the middle of the capital. The anti-explosives squad defused the device and removed the explosives which are estimated at 250 kilograms of high explosive materials.

Third: It was apparent that the members of the network were demobilized soldiers from the Iraqi Army at the time of its war with Iran. They were recruited in the intelligence service which trained them on sabotage and terrorism operations.

Fourth: Some members were trained for suicide and terrorism acts in which it was planned that the leader of the network would tie an explosive belt around himself to carry out one of the phases of the plan.

Fifth: The security forces found with the members of the network a number of light weapons, bombs and explosives prepared for use against vehicles and people. In addition, quantities of alcoholic drinks and six kilograms of drugs to sell in Kuwait were found, as well as amounts of currency, and a camera to photograph the destruction and explosions after carrying out their vile assignment.

Sixth: It became apparent from the investigations that the members of the network have practised terrorism, sabotage, infiltration, and robbery operations, have [police] records and sentences related to smuggling alcohol and drugs and other criminal acts.

Seventh: They were planning to steal a number of cars to sell in Iraq following which the Iraqi intelligence service

would forge their official papers and register them in their names as a reward for their vile act. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian President Zhelev Begins Two-Day Visit

LD2504110693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Bulgarian President His Excellency Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev and accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait international airport at 1115 hours on a two-day official visit to the country. His highness the amir of the country headed those who were at the airport to welcome him. [passage omitted]

Zhelev Holds Talks With Amir

LD2604111193 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev paid a visit to his highness the amir of the country at al-Bayan Palace where official talks were held between them. The talks focused on the development of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual interest. The talks were dominated by a friendly atmosphere characterized by understanding and the spirit of friendship.

Amir, Zhelev Discuss Cooperation

AU2604195893 Sofia BTA in English 1402 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 26 (BTA)—Bulgarian President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, who arrived on an official visit to Kuwait yesterday, met with the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today.

"I am satisfied with the talks. Another Bulgarian delegation may visit Kuwait shortly with concrete projects and proposals to continue what we have begun during this visit," Dr. Zhelev told journalists after one-hour private talks with the amir of Kuwait.

Discussing Bulgarian-Kuwaiti relations, the amir of Kuwait expressed the readiness of his country to cooperate with Bulgaria within the framework of the Kuwaiti development fund and stressed that he personally would see that the Bulgarian projects are discussed with priority.

"First of all I should stress that we cannot forget Bulgaria's stand during the crisis in the Persian Gulf and this has found reflection in our approach to the development of the relations with your country," Kuwaiti Public Health Minister 'Abd-al-Wahab Sulayman al-Fawzan, who is also Dr. Zhelev's official escort, told the special correspondent of the Bulgarian National Radio before the meeting of the two heads of state. "At last night's meeting the Kuwaiti prime minister promised your president that Kuwait would undertake a mission before all countries in the Gulf for promoting their relations with Bulgaria," he said.

According to Abdul Wahhab Sulaiman al-Fawzan, what is most important is that "the amir of Kuwait has opened the gates to cooperation with Bulgaria and for the development of relations in all spheres—health care, agriculture, livestock breeding in particular, trade and tourism." "We will try to sign agreements in all spheres in order to establish the legal basis for cooperation," he said.

In the field of tourism we envisage three Balkan air planes a week to fly tourists from Kuwait to Bulgaria, the Kuwaiti minister of public health said. We also plan to sign a contract for sending Bulgarian medical specialists to Kuwait as well as Kuwaiti students and post-graduate students in medicine for training in Bulgaria, he added.

"I personally expect this meeting to restore our traditional economic and trade relations, as well as scientific and technological cooperation. I expect that certain agreements will be reached for the further activation of Bulgarian presence in Kuwait," Mr. Boyan Slavenkov, the Bulgarian president's economic adviser told the special correspondent of the Bulgarian Radio after Dr. Zhelev's meeting with the Amir of Kuwait.

"We discussed the major problems of international politics in a cordial and sincere atmosphere," the Bulgarian president said after the meeting. The two heads of state discussed yesterday's referendum in Russia, the coming into force of Resolution 820 of the UN Security Council on the former Yugoslavia. "I observed that this affects us directly because we will find ourselves closed and isolated and that we need compensations," Dr. Zhelev said.

Later today the Bulgarian president visited a park in Kuwait City exhibiting captured Iraqi military equipment and the museum of the Missela [name as received] resistance group. Dr. Zhelev's official visit to Kuwait ends tonight.

Zhelev Departs; Praises Talks

LD2604223693 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait international airport at 1700 after a two-day official visit to Kuwait. At the forefront of those seeing him off at the airport were his highness the amir of Kuwait, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the speaker of the National Assembly, ministers, governors, senior army, police and National Guard commanders, the doyen of the diplomatic corps, and the ambassador of Kuwait to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian president praised the outcome of his talks with his highness the amir of Kuwait, the heir apparent, and the prime minister. In an exclusive statement to the RKUW correspondent in Sofia, who accompanied him on his visit to Kuwait, his excellency reiterated his country's support for the UN Security Council resolutions relating to the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border and at the same time emphasised his country's

support for Kuwait at international forums over the issue of hostages and prisoners detained in the jails of the Iraqi regime.

His excellency said that he discussed with his highness the amir of Kuwait a number of international issues, foremost among them the referendum in Russia and the situation in the Balkans—the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular—in addition to bilateral relations and the possibilities of bilateral cooperation.

His excellency and his accompanying delegation this morning visited the Kuwait liberation war spoils museum at the Exhibition Area. He also visited some of the Garayim [as heard] houses destroyed by the treacherous Iraqi aggression which were used by the Kuwaiti resistance in the fight against the invading army. He was accompanied on that tour by the head of the honorary delegation, Health Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Fawzan.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Offers To Resume Talks With Iran Over Islands

NC2704165993 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 27 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has offered to resume negotiations with Iran to settle an island dispute that reversed an improvement in Tehran's relations with its Gulf Arab neighbours.

UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, made the offer in an address at a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Karachi on Monday. The text of the speech was carried by the official Emirates news agency WAM on Tuesday.

"At a time when we have made great headway in restoring peace and security in our region, we reaffirm our readiness to continue a direct peaceful dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve the problem of the three islands, which belong to the UAE," he said.

Official sources said Shaykh Hamdan discussed the dispute with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati when they met in Karachi on Sunday. But they had no information if they agreed on the resumption of the negotiations.

The long-standing wrangle over the strategic islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb remained dormant for several years until it flared anew last year, when the UAE accused Iran of annexing the Arab part of Abu Musa and expelling many of its residents. Talks in Abu Dhabi collapsed in September after Iran refused to discuss the Tunbs. Diplomats said the UAE was willing to accept a recent Iranian proposal to resume the negotiations in Tehran provided they cover the three islands.

"According to my information, the UAE is prepared to sit with the Iranians again at any time and any place if they agreed to discuss the Tunbs, not only Abu Musa," an Abu Dhabi-based Western diplomat said.

Yemen

Elections Draw Heavy Turnout; Unrest Reported

NC2704190493 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 27 Apr 93

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Sanaa, April 27 (AFP)—A heavy turnout and charges of voting irregularities marked Yemen's first general elections on Tuesday.

The government deployed 37,000 police and soldiers to keep order after an election campaign in which at least eight people, including two candidates, were reported to have been killed. A series of incidents, described as "minor" by the authorities, broke out in several areas. Gunshots were heard in a voting district in the southern city of Aden as well as in eastern Hadhramaut. There were no reports of casualties. "This is not surprising in a country where almost all the men are traditionally armed," a western diplomat said. The Islamic movement Al-Islah spoke of several voting irregularities and said that armed men burst into two voting centers in Aden, threatening people there.

For the first time in the Arabian peninsula women were allowed to vote and stand for election. But women voters, most of them veiled, stood in separate lines from the men as they prepared to cast their ballots.

Voters were to chose from among a total of 3,627 candidates, including 50 women, vying for 301 seats in parliament. The two governing parties—the General People's Congress (GPC) of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid—and Al-Islah were expected to win most of the seats. The three are fielding 850 candidates, while the others are independent or opposition candidates.

The GPC, YSP and Al-Islah have promised to do everything possible to end corruption and to aim for liberal economic policies. All three have also pledged to defend multi-party politics, freedom of expression and the unity of Yemen.

Salih said a new government will be formed after the first results are announced, probably in three days, and voiced hope opposition members would join it.

Yemeni newspapers in recent months have criticised the power held by the president, and the opposition blamed him for failing to resolve the country's economic problems. The head of state is also openly accused of corruption, relying on brutal security forces and failing to stop crime and political violence. The government's opponents have also accused it of mismanaging the economy and said fraud was likely in the elections despite the presence of several dozen foreign observers. They charge

that the authorities have room to pad results with fictitious votes because officially there are 2.7 million registered voters, 500,000 of them women, when in fact there are less than two million. They have also questioned the voting procedure which required voters to write out the name of their preferred candidate, in a country where 70 percent of the population is illiterate.

Yemen, which was united in 1990, is only the second country on the Arabian peninsula, after Kuwait, to hold parliamentary elections.

"It's the culmination of a long struggle for democracy," Salih said as he cast his vote.

Police Official Resigns in Protest Against YSP 'Excesses'

JN2804085293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In Yemen, the Interior Ministry under secretary for police affairs in Aden has announced that he tendered his resignation from his post in protest against what he described as violations and excesses committed by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], one of the two ruling parties, during yesterday's legislative elections.

Balloting Ends; Counting of Votes Begins

JN2804093893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The supervisory committees in the various governorates of the Republic began to count the votes today after the election committees announced the conclusion of the election process at 2000 yesterday. Following the conclusion of the election process, the election committees began the legal procedures of sealing the ballot boxes with red wax in the presence of the candidates or their representatives in order to draft the minutes pertaining to the conclusion of the election process and for those concerned to sign them before each committee in the various centers takes its ballot boxes and all the other documents to the original committee centers in the various constituencies in the country, numbering 301. The legislative elections in our country, which were held yesterday, have attracted large-scale attention and interest in the various Arab and world media.

Salih Promises To Resign if Ruling Parties Lose Elections

PM2704150693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 1

[Ma'mun Yusuf report: "Salih Promises To Resign if the Two Ruling Parties Lose the Yemeni Elections"]

[Text] Sanaa—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday promised to step down if the two ruling parties lose the first general elections in unified Yemen, scheduled to be held tomorrow, Tuesday.

Salih, who is the leader of the General People's Congress [GPC], speaking at a press conference, said: "We will certainly accept the election results and if we are defeated we will join the opposition." The press conference was also attended by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leader. The GPC and the YSP have jointly ruled Yemen since its reunification in May 1990.

Salih said that the two ruling parties would seek greater cooperation between them in the future while at the same time giving the other parties the chance to join their alliance. Many observers expect the two parties, which are cooperating closely in the elections, to win easily. Salih said that pressures were being exerted to distance Yemen from democracy and elections, but he did not name any party.

He added that there were some security disturbances targeting the lives of YSP members and there may be designs on the lives of some leaders to drive a wedge between between the GPC, the YSP, and the other parties.

Salih and al-Bid played down the importance of an armed clash which occurred in the al-Hudaydah quarter last Thursday between a GPC candidate and the son of a candidate of the Yemeni Reform Grouping Party, the biggest Islamic opposition party in Yemen.

Five people, including the GPC candidate, were killed in a clash which broke out after his car collided with a car driven by the son of the Yemeni Grouping candidate. Salih said the incident was purely personal and had no political significance. The Yemeni president also said that the economic problems which resulted from the expulsion of 1 million Yemenis who worked in Saudi Arabia in 1990 would not be a "time bomb" that would undermine unity and democracy as some people imagine.

Foreign Minister on Elections, Red Sea Security, Saudi, U.S. Ties

JN2704112693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Apr 93 pp 1, 24

[Yusuf al-'Absi dispatch from Sanaa]

[Excerpts] On the eve of heading for the election polls, which open this morning, Yemenis have deserted their usually crowded capital, whose streets have appeared empty of traffic and pedestrians. Most shops closed earlier than usual with their owners heading for their areas of residence to cast their votes in the parliamentary elections and—in their words—to be close to their families and relatives so as to protect them against any possible acts of violence or confrontation between the various factions vying for votes.

Those who have remained in the capital, Sanaa, hurried to secure their needs of gasoline, foodstuff, and necessary materials for three or four days for use in case of emergencies and a possible closure of roads leading to the capital to oil trucks and other vehicles. [passage omitted]

Only hours before the polls open, AL-RA'Y interviewed Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who assured us that the situation is stable, that fair elections will be held, and that the Yemeni orientation toward building an institutionalized state through consolidating concepts of freedom and democracy is sincere. He said: As you see, calm prevails throughout the country. However, the tensity of zeal varies from one area to another. As we hear, the hottest place is Aden. Perhaps Ta'izz is hotter than Sanaa. This is the heat of honest competition, not struggle. I am absolutely confident that no problems will occur, and if anything does happen, it will only be separate individual incidents. Such incidents will not affect the progress of the elections. There is not the least possibility of disturbances being stirred up by any party which may not be satisfied with the results of the elections. [passage omitted]

Concerning the current border talks between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Dr. al-Iryani said: During our latest meeting, we did not complete all procedural matters. We hope these talks will resume when a new Yemeni cabinet is formed after the elections.

He added that Saudi Arabia has partially accepted the principle of "neither side should be harmed." In other words, during the talks, we have not reached an agreement acceptable to both sides. Therefore, any concessions which any party may have shown readiness to offer cannot be used as a presumption when an arbitration is conducted.

Concerning security in the the Red Sea, and the Western military presence in it, Dr. al-Iryani said: If all parties respect the safety of international navigation in the Red Sea, I do not believe the Red Sea needs regional security arrangements. As for the Western military presence, it is there in response to the wishes of the concerned states. At any rate, the declared objective of this presence is to safeguard navigation. And, as long as this presence does not affect the interests of the states that do not cooperate with it, then this is only the business of the states that wish it to remain there. This is because this presence does not contradict Yemen's interests or security.

Regarding the Yemeni-U.S. relations, he said: Undoubtedly, relations between the two countries are now better than they were during the Gulf war. However, there is no fundamental change in relations between the two countries. This is despite the fact that the new U.S. Administration has shown more interest in the U.S.-Yemeni relations. The Democratic Institute, which is affiliated with U.S. President Bill Clinton's party, is the main instrument observing the progress of the Yemeni elections.

He added: Many things between us and Washington have been normalized. What remains to be accomplished is an agreement on cultural matters and technical aid. However, the previous administration had promised greater openness after the elections. This has also been affirmed by the present administration, but in a clearer and more categorical manner.

Dr. al-Iryani said: The United States has developed major economic interests in Yemen. The Hunt and Axon Companies have been exporting Yemeni oil for four years. By the end of this year, Occidental Company will have spent $1 billion in the oil sector. I believe that the economic angle necessitates that Washington promote its relations with Sanaa to an extent compatible with the U.S. interests. [passage omitted]

Republican Party Leader Explains Election Boycott

PM2804102593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 4

['Ali al-Ruz report: " 'Republican Party' First Yemeni Party To Announce Boycott of Legislative Elections"]

[Excerpts] London—The Yemeni Republican Party has announced in the first partisan position of its kind its boycott of the legislative elections scheduled for 27 April, leaving to its members the freedom to take part in it "as independents."

Muhammad Abu-Lahhum, the party's leader and chairman of the Yemeni House of Representatives Economic Committee, told AL-HAYAH that the electoral process "is the most distinguished aspect of democratic practice. It is the criterion which determines the features of legislative and executive institutions. It assumes its importance from the nature of mass participation in it and the means and capabilities leading to the desired fair competition." [passage omitted]

He pointed out that "the demands we listed in previous statements for providing sufficient guarantees for the elections and their safety and impartiality were ignored completely by the two ruling parties." He said that the party's demands are aimed at "securing fair results for the democratic process." They include "the demand for merging the armed and security forces and achieving a real unionist reality."

He said: "With regard to the electoral process itself, we announced the Republican Party's position, beginning with our reservations about the election law through to the formation of the higher electoral committee, in which we refused to participate in view of the confusion in the way it was formed. This is in addition to the erroneous distribution of constituencies."

He emphasized that "the reservations and positions we voiced in the past apply to the upcoming general elections. Thus, the Republican Party—in line with its declared positions—announces its nonparticipation in these elections. At the same time it urges its members, followers, supporters, and the masses of the Yemeni people to safeguard their constitutional right in the elections and vote for the candidates who are patriotic and faithful to mass issues and who are eager to achieve the homeland's higher interests and aspirations."

He pointed out that the party "believes that nothing prevents its members who wish to enter the election competition from running as independent candidates." [passage omitted]

Asked whether he himself will run in the elections, Abu-Lahhum said: "Out of my commitment to the party's decision I will run in the elections as an independent. I have decided on this step in line with the national, political, and tribal position I represent and at the wish of many people who demand that I complete the march."

Reform Grouping Leader Denies 'Secret Agreements'

PM2804084693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping party and chief of the Hashid Tribes, by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] What is your opinion of what some parties say about the existence of "secret agreements" before the elections, and the claim that the Yemeni Reform Grouping is party to them?

[Al-Ahmar] That is absolutely baseless and there are no secret or public agreements, nor is there coordination. This is in the knowledge that coordination among parties is permissible throughout the world. In some cases this coordination serves certain interests. But sometimes it represents a way of getting round democracy. This is why we avoided any deals.

[Khayrallah] But there is coordination.

[Al-Ahmar] We even avoided coordination, even though it is permissible. There is dialogue and understanding with some parties, and the door is open...

[Khayrallah] What parties exactly are you talking about?

[Al-Ahmar] The door is open to dialogue with all parties, including the Socialist Party. But there is no coordination over matters that are agreed upon. There is an understanding, and understanding is useful.

[Khayrallah] How do you visualize the election results?

[Al-Ahmar] The elections...what pleases us and what we are satisfied with is that the elections will be held on the date set, 27 April. So far it seems that matters are proceeding as planned and normally. This is something great, and we are satisfied with it. As for how matters will be, we do not know. If the elections are spared the two ruling parties' interventions, influence, and tricks, they will be conducted in an excellent manner, God willing. This is in the knowledge that certain measures taken by the two ruling parties prove or confirm their schemes and tricks since the election law was drawn up, as it contains loopholes and things which give the two parties the chance to deceive. That was followed by the formation of the higher elections committee, which was formed in a way known to be in the two parties' favor. Then came the subcommittees and inclusion of Armed Forces and security personnel in the constituencies in which their camps are based. The purpose of this is known. There are also many practices which represent major violations, and you can learn about these from other people. Add to this that elections in the world in general have to be conducted under a neutral government—a neutral election government...throughout the world. As for our elections, they are held under the government of the two parties, which share all positions and posts at all levels.

[Khayrallah] In view of these conditions, what do you expect with regard to the outcome?

[Al-Ahmar] The elections are bound to be more in their favor (the two ruling parties' favor), because they control everything. Everything is in their hands: money, media, intimidation, enticement, and influence...

[Khayrallah] How will you respond to that?

[Al-Ahmar] Because of our desire for the elections to be held on time, we agreed to participate in the election committees symbolically and on a scale which does not match our size. We are proceeding with them (the two parties) because of our desire for the elections to be held on time and in order to avoid providing a justification for obstructing or delaying them.

[Khayrallah] What is your reply to what some Socialist Party leaders say about violations committed by the Reform Grouping?

[Al-Ahmar] What violations has the Reform Grouping committed, when it has no ministers, officials, administrators, or military officials...or even any official, throughout the country? What violation for which we are responsible, by which we will be judged, or which will affect the elections? Everything is in the two parties' hands.

[Khayrallah] So you are willing henceforth to accept the election results?

[Al-Ahmar] Because of our concern for the country we have accepted everything, including our small representation on the committees. We ignored the very clear violations because of our desire to end this (transitional) period, which has driven Yemen to the verge of an abyss.

[Khayrallah] It is reported that you will assume the speakership of the new House of Representatives, and that there are agreements in this connection. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Ahmar] We are now engaged in the battle of electing members of the House of Representatives...the battle of reaching the [ballot] box. That is premature.

[Khayrallah] Is it true, as some Socialist Party members say, that the Reform Grouping encourages acts of violence?

[Al-Ahmar] The following proverb applies to them: She gave me her disease and left [i.e. shifting the blame]. It is they who have perpetrated and are perpetrating terrorism. Their history is known for terrorism, crime, and all kinds of disasters. As for us, we are a new party and an Islamic party which rejects all aspects of violence and terror and adheres to the book and the Sunnah, which both call for good, love, and the establishment of God's law in everything, and for unity and brotherhood. We are innocent of the actions they are carrying out and which they are trying to attribute to others.

[Khayrallah] So you can say that you have nothing to do with the acts of violence which the southern governorates witnessed recently?

[Al-Ahmar] We could never do that. And I can tell you that these actions come from them. They carry out these practices to achieve certain aims and interests.

SAIRI Statement Warns of 'Imminent' Regime Offensive

NC2704170593 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 27 (AFP)—The Iraqi army is planning an "imminent offensive" against marshlands in southern Iraq, a key Iraqi Muslim Shiite opposition group said on Tuesday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the Iraqi army deployed more than 200 tanks, 300 artillery batteries and 12 battalions in the region.

It quoted "informed sources in southern Iraq," as saying that President Saddam Husayn had ordered Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al- Majid to personally supervise the operation.

"This offensive is imminent and is aimed namely against the marshes of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah," in southern Iraq, a SAIRI statement said.

Iraqi Shiites took refuge in the marshlands after an aborted uprising at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991. Army deserters also fled there.

The United States, Britain and France last August set up a no-fly zone south of the 32nd parallel to protect the Shiites against attack from Baghdad.

The marshlands cover an area of around 35,000 square kilometers (14,000 square miles).

SAIRI Claims Resistance Kills 100 Troops, Destroys Dam

NC2704180193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] A statement issued by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] on Monday said that the Iraqi opposition forces killed more than 100 Iraqi regime troops in an attack they launched in al-'Amarah Governorate. The statement said that a dam built by the regime in the (Buhayrah) area to dry the marshland area was destroyed in the attack.

In another statement, SAIRI said that the Iraqi regime is concentrating its forces around the marshland area apparently in preparation for a wide-scale attack.

Regime Reportedly Deploying Forces in Baghdad

NC2704190393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Baghdad has reported that on 26 April, four Austrian guns were installed in the al-Rashidiyah area pointing toward Baghdad, and that on the same day cars were prevented from entering Baghdad, but not from leaving it. Our correspondent added that the Iraqi regime surrounded Baghdad with armored vehicles and tanks and ordered a night curfew in these areas. Hundreds of the regime's military, intelligence, and security forces were deployed in Baghdad.

According to our reliable sources, the Iraqi regime is continuing its campaign of arrests in Baghdad. On 20 April the regime established checkpoints in al-Sha'b city and at the approaches to al-Salah, al-Waziriyah, al-Kazimiyah, al-Hurriyah, al-Thawrah, and Baghdad al-Jadidah in an attempt to terrorize and tame the angry masses. The sources said that the al-Mashghal area has been surrounded for over a week by security and intelligence forces. These forces are searching the houses for people suspected of belonging to the Iraqi opposition.

The sources said that the prices of essential commodities have reached astronomical levels and that the high cost of living is evident in Baghdad.

Saddam Addresses Tribal Chiefs in al-Muthanna

JN2304164793 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 20 Apr 93 p 3

["Text" of address by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at meeting with al-Muthanna Governorate tribal chiefs and dignitaries in Baghdad on 19 April]

[Text] God's greetings to the kinfolk and men of al-Muthanna. Greetings to the kinfolk in al-Samawah. I would like to welcome you. How are the folks back home? What about their state of affairs? We hope it is good, God willing.

Once again, we comment on the poems that were recited. We say that we must thank God for everything. When we thank God, we must mention why we do so. We thank God because he has kept your heads raised high. We thank God because you will not feel ashamed before history. Your sons and your grandsons will not be ashamed either from any stand whether toward any Arab or foreigner.

It is normal for us to say that we in this country are the people of faith and principles. We never wished anyone to reach the abyss in order to prove that we are at the top. When Iraq rose, and when it has faith and reaches new summits, it does so regardless of the stands or status of others. Naturally, we say once again that it does not please us to see Arab heads fall into the abyss, whether those in high positions of responsibility, or in any other position. I believe that it is more than sufficient that you have mentioned them by name in your poems. Almighty God is aware of their actions and intentions, and it suffices that they are suffering humiliation. History will not forget any incident and will place every incident within its proper context.

We thank God that He has maintained you in this state in al-Samawah, al-Muthanna, and in all of Iraq. Many people, who are not good, had wished you another fate. However, God Almighty, with his great wisdom and will wished you a lofty status, a position of honor, and the glory that you deserve.

The men's poems evoke the solicitude and support of the population of al-Muthanna and al-Samawah to their brother Saddam Husayn.

At the risk of repeating myself, I will say that I have always known the population of al-Muthanna and al-Samawah to be a fort for Saddam Husayn.

Where did they and the Iraqi people in general get this famous and firm conviction? I would say it is rooted in self-knowledge, having surrendered their destinies to God. It comes from knowing the attributes of this great people, who have always taken the side of pride, noble values, faith, and their true representatives.

Because we know that we have had these values handed down to us from our fathers and forefathers, we have always been confident that as it fulfills its responsibilities toward the great people of Iraq, the Iraqi leadership knows that it can count on the support of the people of al-Muthanna and al-Samawah, along with that of the people of al-Qadisiyah, Dhi Qar, al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Basrah, Salah-al-Din, and Irbil, and all Iraqi cities.

May you live long, and you are welcome.

Convey my greetings to the people of al-Muthanna.

I wish you the best of health, and God willing, you will always be capable of fulfilling your duties, and be as generous as ever.

A good many people fail to understand the Iraqis or appreciate their positions. They fail to make the right predictions as to how things will turn out if they come into confrontation with the Iraqis. I would tell whoever contemplates crossing swords with the Iraqis to look hard at these people and ask whether any other people in the world have put forth so many poets.

Those who want to better understand and know the Iraqi people are advised to consider the kind of words and language used by them when they have a chance to meet with Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqis have taken on more than 33 nations and are facing a blockade that has been in place close to three years. The Iraqi people's words evoke history and noble values. You would not have heard an Iraqi complain that a roof, for example, has caved in, and, therefore, he wants a bulldozer to be sent to fix it. You would not have heard an Iraqi demand that a waterwheel be sent for his crops, nor would you have heard one demanding that food supplies be sent to his store. All of them act on their principles and high values.

Have they ever seen a people like this?

If we say we are unlike any other people, we are not being braggarts or racists. It is rather that each nation has attributes of its own, which if they are not understood, will give some people illusions about us. I am giving this piece of advice gratis. People in the West are fond of studies and research; there are many orientalists. I would ask them to first to pay attention to what Iraqis say on certain occasions, and second to look at the kind of words the Iraqis use. They should also heed a third point, which is the sum total of the first two. Let them consider how an Iraqi host entertains his guests. This is so they may learn about hospitality. Let them come and make themselves comfortable in the home of any Iraqi and see what they will be served? Let them ask him then if he has anything left other than that which he has served.

A people so generous and who take after ideal role models and copy noble values will naturally tend to express themselves in poetry when they want to describe their conditions. When these people have a raw deal, it will not be easy for them to get to sleep.

My greetings to the people of al-Muthanna

I wish you and your people well.

My greetings to the people there, and may God grant you long life.

Further on 'Mother of All Battles' Military Parade

JN2804061693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Apr 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Baghdad (Agencies)—The Iraqi armed forces staged their first military parade since the Gulf war Monday to mark the 56th birthday of President Saddam Husayn, who attended the display in Baghdad.

Iraqi television late Monday showed the ceremony, which was called the "Parade of the Mother All Battles," after the Iraqi name given to the Gulf war of January-February 1991.

Surface-to-surface Tariq, Ra'd and Ababil missiles on mobile rocket launchers featured in the three-hour display designed to show Iraq's military recovery since then.

According to Iraqi sources, these missiles have a range of less than 150 kilometres and are not banned by the United Nations, which has demanded the elimination of all Iraq's non-conventional weapons.

Warplanes and helicopter gunships flew overheard during the demonstration, which also included displays of surface-to-air missiles, four-barrelled antiaircraft guns, tanks, mobile cannon and armoured cars.

Units of the elite Republican Guard marched to martial music before the official reviewing stand where President Saddam in beret and battledress, a revolver at his belt, stood to take their salute.

Five warplanes flew in a low formation over the capital, and one plane was refuelled in flight.

It was the first Iraqi military parade since one held in 1989 after the end of the eight-year war with Iran.

The Iraqi army, whose numbers were reduced by 60 per cent after the Gulf war, currently has some 400,000 men, and can count on support from an air force estimated to have more than 300 warplanes at its disposal.

Foreign journalists in Iraq were not informed in advance of the military display, which took place near Baghdad's commercial centre, at a large ceremonial stadium.

President Saddam celebrates his birthday on April 28 and large-scale preparations are underway in Baghdad and his birthplace, the province of Tikrit, 180 kilometres north of the capital.

Iraq last held a military parade in 1989, almost a year and a half before the start of the Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Housing Minister Returns From Sudan Visit, Comments

JN2704120693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1132 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, minister of housing and reconstruction, and his delegation returned to Baghdad today, ending a visit of several days to Sudan.

The minister told INA the Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir restated his country's support for Iraq as it tackles the 30-state treacherous aggression.

Sudan's position is one of unalterable principle, and the rehabilitation effort mounted by the Iraqi people under Saddam Husayn is admirable and cause for pride for all Arabs, al-Bashir told the delegation.

A team of Iraqi engineers is now active fixing miscellaneous machinery used in road repair in the brotherly country, drawing on the experience gained by Iraq in its reconstruction effort, the minister said.

Ramadan Inaugurates 'Nonaligned' Youth Conference

JN2604193493 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 26, INA—Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan today inaugurated the general conference of the non-aligned youth and students organizations under the slogan "Solidarity Against Imperialism for Independence, Democracy and Development."

In an inaugural speech, Mr. Ramadan extolled the delegates and expressed appreciation of their role in struggling against imperialist powers and foreign hegemony.

He said "Your meeting in Baghdad under the umbrella of the non-aligned principles was a great historical stance".

Mr. Ramadan spoke about the evil U.S.-led aggression against Iraq, saying the American-Western-imperialist alliance was aiming at Iraq's infrastructure where missiles and air shelling targeted civil factories, plants, hospitals, schools as well as shelters.

The Iraqi official referred to the reconstruction drive being implemented all over the country describing it as a "miracle" taking place in the light of a comprehensive embargo.

Representative of the African Youth Organization Filip Nyanja [name as received] addressed the conference and hailed the Iraqi people and leadership steadfastness in confronting the imperialist aggression.

He called upon all international and human organizations to act for lifting the unjust embargo on the people of Iraq.

'Aziz Urges Nonaligned States To Face Western 'Threats'

JN2804101293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq totally believes in the need for the continuation, renovation, and sustained struggle of the Nonaligned Movement in order to maintain the independence of its people and to emphasize the principles of right, justice, and equality on which the movement was based.

Addressing today's evening session of the General Congress of the Nonaligned Movement student and youth organizations, 'Aziz said that the nonaligned states should enhance their solidarity to protect their people from the dangers and threats posed by the colonialist states and regimes with the aim of [words indistinct] controlling their wealth [words indistinct] the independence and national unity of countries.

The deputy prime minister said that the Nonaligned Movement states should together confront such threats which the United States and its Western allies are trying to consecrate after the collapse of the Soviet Union in an attempt to inject fear and subordination into the governments of some of the movement's states. Out of fear of America, these governments are deluded that their fate and existence depend on following the course of America and its Western allies.

He stressed the importance of the role that could be played by the students and youth to achieve the renewal of the spirit of independence which has characterized the movement since its establishment in the 1950s.

The deputy prime minister added that the Western and colonialist policies are aggressive policies regardless of the change in rulers and parties in America and the colonialist West. He asked: Did any American or European leader or any ruling party in these countries condemn their previous governments' policies of colonizing countries and plundering their resources?

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz answered questions posed to him by a number of heads and members of the delegations on the history of the Nonaligned Movment and issues that concern the policies of countries.

The evening session was attended by Comrade Nuri Faysal Shahir, member of The Iraq Command of The Ba'th Party and secretary of the Ba'th Party's Students and Youth Bureau.

Commentary Proposes Alternative to Madrid Plan

TA2304131293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 23 Apr 93 p 7

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "An Alternative to Madrid"]

[Text] Had the Palestinians decided to postpone the peace talks merely to extort Israeli and American concessions, we would have had nothing to worry about. We could view that as an astute tactical move of a close-knit negotiating team, backed by its senders, who knows what they want, and who take advantage of their playing cards to the full.

But the Palestinians initiated the delay because the only thing on which they were able to agree was to refrain from deciding. The unsavory truth—unsavory for us, too—is that the Palestinian delegation and the PLO, which the delegation represents, are incapable of conducting negotiations. Moreover, they are incapable of actually implementing an agreement.

The territories' support for the PLO and the peace process is waning. The leaders—from 'Arafat down—are paralyzed with fear for their lives, paralyzed by the sheer weight of the historic responsibility they bear, paralyzed by the chronic disagreements riving the so-called "Palestinian peace camp."

Furthermore, an increasing number of Palestinians believe that their very presence at the negotiations is a favor to Israel and the United States. Quite a few of these people believe that the intifadah has eroded the Israeli resilience. A few more car bombs, a few more knifings, and the Rabin government will get down on its knees and beg the Palestinians to take all it has so far refused to grant them.

In these conditions, the autonomy negotiations are hardly likely to yield practical results. It is also quite safe to assume that the violence in the territories will persist. The Government of Israel will be forced to take steps to protect its citizens and to enforce an illusory order in the territories. Each time these steps will be taken, the Palestinian delegation will seize the opportunity to depart from the talks. We have heard this song more than once before.

But this is nothing compared with what will happen when an agreement is achieved. The election campaign for an autonomy council, for instance, will be most likely accompanied by a spate of violence that will spill into Israel proper. The government will be again forced to take steps, and the Palestinians will respond, as usually, by delaying the implementation of the agreement. Then sides will start negotiating the permanent arrangement in the territories, and violence will again erupt.

None of this means that Israel should drop out of the Madrid process. We should give it all the necessary rope because it already exists and its termination will be liable to cause a terrible deterioration in the territories. We must pursue it for at least several more months to exhaust the meager chance of achieving something, after all. Also, to convince ourselves and the Americans that we have indeed exhausted it.

Moreover, to give the current negotiations a chance, the Government of Israel should make far-reaching concessions on procedural matters. It should be ready to talk directly with PLO- 'Arafat, for instance, if such a move will demonstrate that he controls his people in the territories and can stop the violence. And, the Government of Israel should render its autonomy plan flexible in the utmost degree.

Yet in parallel, the government should prepare an alternative for the event the Madrid process gets stuck for good. If the Palestinians realize that the State of Israel has an alternative plan of action, they will be motivated to make an extra effort in the current process.

The plan will be made up of two stages, and it will be implemented after advance coordination with the United States:

Stage 1: The territories autonomy plan will be unilaterally implemented (simultaneously in Gaza and the West Bank).

Stage 2: Negotiations will be conducted with the Palestinians and with Jordan on a permanent arrangement in the territories.

In the first stage, the State of Israel will withdraw its security forces from Palestinian population centers and deploy on the periphery of the territories in a manner that will achieve four objectives:

—preventing the entry of weapons, warfare means, and nonresidents into the territories;

—preventing terrorists from the territories infiltrating into Israeli territory;

—protecting the inhabitants of settlements situated in the vicinity of the Green Line and their freedom of movement into and out of Israel;

—maintaining a rapid intervention capability for developments in the area, if Palestinians attempt to disrupt life in Israel.

All the rest should be left to the Palestinians. There is no room for our present patronizing approach implying that we have to tend to the Palestinians' welfare and to run their affairs. I have learned in my visits to Afghanistan and the Kurdish area of Iraq that when a population is confronted with a fact, it takes only a short while to regain its equilibrium.

It is to be assumed—and the matter can be taken care of in advance—that the Arab countries, Europe, and the United States will send economic aid to the territories, helping the Palestinians to overcome the hardships of the initial period.

It is safe to assume that fighting will erupt in the territories between PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters, and even between rival PLO factions. This possibility should not worry us too much as long as we can make certain that their violence does not spill over to us. Based on experience, they will consolidate—after a certain period of bloodshed—a leadership and a self-rule system, and with that, we will at last be able to attain a dialogue.

There is naturally the possibility that the Palestinians will declare a Palestinian state in territories evacuated by Israel. That possibility should not bother us either, because the borders of the temporary Palestinian entity will be determined by us, and not by them, and these borders will serve us as a convenient opening point for the next stage—negotiations over the permanent arrangement.

The Palestinians will be unable and unwilling to live for a long time in an enclave whose status is unclear. It is safe to assume—again on the basis of other countries' experience—that this will provide them with an incentive to negotiate a permanent arrangement which will allow them to live a normal life.

We should face up to the fact that the State of Israel is currently waging autonomy negotiations not because this is the best way to settle the Palestinian-Israeli problem, but because it is the best way to postpone difficult political and economic decisions. Unilateral dissociation from the territories would mean the beginning of the end of Israeli rule over a considerable part of the territories; it would mean that some of the settlers would be forced to realize they have to leave; and it would further mean giving up cheap Arab labor.

Therefore, the real obstacle liable to delay the unilateral implementation of the autonomy plan is not what the Palestinians will do, but rather the Israeli Government's unwillingness and inability to adopt momentous and courageous resolutions.

Planned Proposals to Palestinians Detailed

TA2504061593

[Editorial Report] On pages 1 and 6 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 April, Pe'erli Shahar reports: "A clarification issued by the prime minister's bureau states that a local police will not be set up in the territories before an autonomy accord is achieved with the Palestinians."

On pages 1 and 6 of 'AL HAMISHMAR, Pinhas 'Inbari reports: "When the Washington talks resume, Israel will propose that the Palestinians assume immediate responsibility for five ministries. These do not include the police portfolio, but Israel is ready to discuss with the Palestinians the gradual rebuilding of their police force, which disintegrated during the intifadah. The ministries are: education, labor, health, agriculture, and tourism. Israeli delegation sources told our correspondent that Israel will be willing to grant primary legislation rights in matters pertaining to the work of these ministries."

A report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Yosi Torpstein, Ori Nir, and Gay Bekhor on pages A1 and A6 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 April states: "The Israeli delegation, headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, has been instructed to limit the concessions pertaining to land control and the autonomy council's legislative powers in a bid to ensure that the interim arrangement contains no aspects of an independent state. The Israeli delegation will further take action to ascertain that Israel retains control over main traffic axes in the territories."

A related report by Gid'on Sa'ar on page 5 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 April adds: "A senior political source has said that if the Palestinian delegation shows a serious attitude and a readiness to promote the negotiations, the Israeli delegation may suggest that a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee on land control in Judaea and Samaria be established already in the course of the autonomy interim arrangement." The commission would have authority to address the issue of state-owned lands in the territories, which comprise 70 percent of the territory. The commission would take over the powers of the Civil Administration and decide on land allocations for public and other needs."

Commentator Explains Israeli Optimism on Talks

TA2704135293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 93 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "And on This Optimistic Note"]

[Text] I do not propose that the Nobel Peace Prize committee go on a state of alert but, upon the opening of the talks in Washington, there is for the first time room for optimism. I am not sure this is shared by the other side, but on our side—as Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, put it—the feeling is that "the train will start rolling because none of the sides has any other choice." At least as far as we are concerned, the train is supposed to start rolling soon and, as far as Yitzhaq Rabin is concerned, an agreement on the autonomy and a framework agreement with Syria are within reach. Insofar as it is up to us, we want to do business and we want to do it fast.

There are four reasons for this good feeling. First, Rabin wants to push an accelerated timetable for the talks. He asked the public to give him its confidence in the elections and received it in light of his promise to establish autonomy within six to nine months. In the 10th month of his tenure, not only was the process stuck but personal safety severely deteriorated. If Rabin does not make any achievements in the direction of peace, he and his party might be finished. And, these achievements must be seen soon because, if the process gets stuck this time, there will be a violent escalation between us and the Palestinians.

Rabin is prepared to make a series of concessions, the specifics of which he has kept secret, but some of which are already known. For example, his agreement to Faysal al-Husayni's participation in the delegation and to a government-like self-government, or what Christopher terms "the end of the occupation." After 14 years during which Israeli governments torpedoed the autonomy, Rabin's decision to implement it may be a one-time opportunity.

Second, a great many good things that are scheduled to occur at the negotiating table have been predetermined with the Clinton administration. These do not just include "gestures," or to be more precise, the confidence-building measures that the Palestinians demanded and Israel agreed to give only at the negotiating table, but also a series of U.S. pronouncements. For example, the application of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 to the territories, Christopher's remarks about "a serious and significant self- government as an interim phrase en route to the permanent status" or that "the interim arrangements will end the occupation."

This means that Rabin agrees to put an end to the occupation during the autonomy stage. In other words, the area will be controlled by a Palestinian police force, while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will deploy at inconspicuous security positions. In other words: Rabin agrees to the establishment of a national entity within the framework of the autonomy, either with or without elections (whatever the Palestinians want). In agreement with Clinton, Rabin is going far beyond the original Camp David accords.

Third, the U.S. proposal for continuous talks is very important. This does not mean that there will not be occasional breaks for consultations or for decisions back home. However, the continuity will prevent the anguish entailed in opening yet another round of talks. What is more important, whoever quits the continuous talks will be held responsible for their failure, which might deter the sides from walking out.

Fourth, the very involvement of the Clinton administration belies the predictions that Clinton would not get involved in foreign affairs. Rabin likes this because he believes that no arrangement in this region has ever or will ever be attained without U.S. involvement.

Christopher's statement that the United States will adopt an evenhanded policy toward the two sides startled our ambassador in Washington and he hastened to seek "clarifications" from the administration—which shows that pressure will be applied on us when necessary. It will not be pleasant, but I am not sure it will be detrimental to the peace process.

Although the stress will be on the autonomy, Rabin has not given up on an arrangement with Syria. What al-Asad had in mind when he talked about "everything in exchange for everything" will become clear in the next few days (maybe). If he means real peace, al-Asad will find that Rabin is dramatically prepared to meet him halfway.

The Golan lobby has recently put up billboards citing Rabin's remarks during the election campaign that "he who withdraws from the Golan Heights will be risking the state's security." The late Moshe Dayan once made a similar well-known statement, whereby "Sharm al- Shaykh without peace is better than peace without Sharm al-Shaykh." Reminded of this commitment when he, along with Begin, relinquished the entire Sinai Peninsula, Dayan replied that only an ass does not change its mind.

And, on this optimistic note we will conclude this article, before we start musing over what might and will go wrong.

Reportage on German Defense Minister Visit

Meets Rabin, Others

LD2704152693 Hamburg DPA in German 1356 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tel Aviv (DPA)—German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe met today with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv at the start of his three-day visit to Israel. Rabin, who is also the country's defense minister, received his German counterpart with full military honors.

Ruehe said his talks with Rabin, as well as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, would largely comprise an exchange of opinion on political and strategic issues. Both sides also want to sound out the possibility of further German-Israeli cooperation in military technology. Israel has been pressing for a loosening of German weapons export practices for some time.

Ruehe said relations between Israel and Germany are "good." With reference to the resumption of the Middle East peace talks in Washington, Ruehe said his visit to Israel is taking place at a "favorable moment." My talks with the Israeli Government will be aimed at opening opportunities for both countries, which are playing a central part in their respective regions, to influence each other's security policy, Ruehe said.

The Federal defense minister said he expects Israel to have no objections to extended international activities by the Bundeswehr, for instance, with AWACS aircraft or in Somalia. He will comprehensively brief the Israeli Government on the fundamental decisions made by the German Government on these two questions, as well as the planned further development of NATO, especially toward the eastern European states.

Ruehe's visit is the third visit by a German defense minister to the Jewish state. His predecessors, Manfred Woerner and Rupert Scholz visited Israel in 1986 and 1989. Tomorrow, Ruehe will lay a wreath at the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem, near Jerusalem. He will

also visit several military installations and meet representatives of the Israeli arms industry.

Rabin Speaks at Reception

TA2804055793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel is ready to make compromises and take risks for peace if it will be met by the same approach from the Palestinians and the Arab countries. The prime minister was talking at a reception last night to welcome visiting German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe. Alan Ben- 'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The German defense minister arrived yesterday for a three-day visit at the invitation of Yitzhaq Rabin. At a reception last night, both men spoke of the past and the ties that bind Israel and Germany together, but they also talked of the future and the hopes in the Middle East.

[Rabin] The peace negotiations have been resumed. I don't know what will be the results, at least on our part, we are ready to make compromises, even to take risks. We have taken risks at war, we ready to take calculated risks for peace if it will be met by the same approach by our Arab neighboring countries, by the Palestinians in the territories.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 28 April reports: "Prime Minister Rabin promised the U.S. administration to concentrate from now on in the peace talks on progress along the Palestinian track. Our Washington correspondent reports that the promise follows previous reports that Israel is interested in making progress along the Syrian track." But Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 on 28 April says: "The prime minister's bureau denies the reports that Rabin promised the Americans to make progress in the Palestinian track and not the others. Israel will try to advance in all the negotiating tracks, Rabin's bureau said."]

[Ben-'Ami] Dr. Ruehe said Israelis and Germans have come a long way from the dark clouds of the past to the dawn of hope.

[Ruehe] The memory of the past commits us to a better future, as you have indicated prime minister. The generation of Germans I represent acknowledges the responsibility deriving from history for the freedom and dignity of man and for Israel's assured rights to live in peace and security. Israel, however, still faces many threats, as terrorism time and again clearly demonstrates, and I sense that on my visits to Israel, especially two years ago. I believe constructive efforts are needed to achieve a lasting peaceful order in the Middle East. So we thoroughly welcome that the Middle East peace negotiations were resumed today, and we wish and your people the kind of success which you are hoping for.

[Ben-'Ami] The German minister, who has already had one round of talks at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, meets with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Likud party leader Binyamin Netanyahu today before visiting Yad Vashem and then Massada. He will have a further meeting with Mr. Rabin at the Defense Ministry tomorrow. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 April in a page A1 report by Aluf Ben reports that "German Defense Minister Volke Ruehe told Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday that German Government budgetary problems meant it would not be able to fund the building of a third Dolphin submarine for the Israeli Navy in addition to the two granted to Israel during the Gulf war and are now being built in shipyards in the town of Kiel."]

Minister 'Very Contented'

LD2804104593 Hamburg DPA in German 0425 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Tel Aviv (DPA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe have made a positive provisional appraisal after the first day of the German minister's visit to Israel. While Rabin spoke of a "further milestone" in relations between the two countries, Ruehe said in Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening that he is "very contented" with the exchange of opinions between the two delegations.

Rabin stressed that a joint future with the Federal Republic of Germany was possible, without forgetting the past. Both countries can contribute to a "completely new world order", he said. In this context, the prime minister stressed his country's willingness to take "calculated risks" at the Washington peace conference in favor of peace with its neighboring countries.

Ruehe made it clear that there had been "absolutely no" criticism from the Israeli side of international deployments by the Bundeswehr. He said that the Transall aid flights to Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina could not have taken place without the electronic systems supplied by Israel to detect anti-aircraft missiles. In this regard, Ruehe repeated that there will be no deployments of German fighter bombers in the former Yugoslavia.

Ruehe was not able to make his interlocutors any promises with regard to the relaxation of weapons exports from Germany, which Israel desires. Not only Israel, but also countries such as Egypt, India, and Argentina want weapons supplied by Germany, the minister said. This subject must be discussed further in Bonn.

Some Deportees May Return as Early as 29 Apr

TA2704185093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Some 35 deportees from before the intifadah are preparing to return to the territories as soon as 29 April. Palestinian sources have said that they are expecting Israel to officially publish tonight the names of the deportees it is allowing to return from the list of 50 the Palestinians had presented.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that the Palestinians intend to turn their return to the territories into a big demonstration, the culmination of which will be a mass prayer at the al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel has rejected the request to allow the return of Akram Haniyah, 'Arafat's adviser, but it will allow the return of some dozen young activists of the various PLO organizations, as well as some long-term deportees.

Rabin Discusses Holocaust, Polish Visit

AU2404155393 Poznan WPROST in Polish 18 Apr 93 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Eli Barbur in Jerusalem; date not given: "The Past With the Future"]

[Text] [Barbur] You are coming to Poland to attend the ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. What is the significance of this uprising in the history of the Jewish people?

[Rabin] As a Jew and as an Israeli, my first visit to Poland possesses a double significance—personal and official. I will attend the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which symbolizes the determination, pride, and commitment of the Jews in a hopeless situation and a struggle against the Nazis that had no chance whatever of succeeding. The insurgents merely wanted to die a soldier's death. For someone like me born in Eretz, Israel, this was a traumatic event in the history of the Jewish people.

As prime minister of Israel, I would like to remind the world of the meaning of the holocaust, in which one-third of the Jewish people were murdered. The direct consequence of this tragedy, the greatest tragedy of the Jewish people since the destruction of the Second Temple, was the emergence of the state of Israel, which constituted a guarantee that the holocaust would not repeat itself. I am coming to Poland with a feeling of friendship, but an awareness of the past is keeping me company.

[Barbur] To what extent may your visit serve to overcome the mutual prejudice in Polish-Jewish relations?

[Rabin] The past can be neither forgotten nor erased. We cannot forgive and forget the Germans for the horrible atrocities committed on the Jewish people. As a people and as a nation, we must remember this. But it is also our duty to look to the future with the hope that the past will not repeat itself neither in Germany or in Poland. It is necessary to construct bridgeheads of understanding between Israel and Poland so as to bring the two nations together and eliminate the shadows of the past that could affect the present and future.

[Barbur] Might this rapprochement be facilitated by the fact that many Israeli citizens are of Polish descent?

[Rabin] Certainly. There is no doubt that many Israelis are conscious of their Polish origins. I know many people who visited Poland as soon as it became possible to do so to uncover former traces and relive what they had already lived through or heard about.

[Barbur] Young Israelis frequently learn about Poland from only one angle—Auschwitz. What are the chances of breaking Poland's stereotyped image as a Jewish cemetery?

[Rabin] Auschwitz was a German extermination camp, built by the German criminals on Polish soil. Whoever is incapable of differentiation and associates Auschwitz with Poland is making a cardinal mistake. That does not mean that Israelis bear no grudges because of the attitudes of some Poles toward the Jews during the German occupation.

[Barbur] What are the prospects of Polish-Israeli cooperation?

[Rabin] The Israeli Government thinks that it is necessary to encourage economic cooperation in every sphere that brings advantages to both sides. In international relations, the most important matter is a desire to cooperate, and on our part there is a clear desire to do so with Poland. Therefore it is necessary to define the possible areas of cooperation. Empty talk does not count.

The post-communist countries are struggling with various difficulties, therefore let us not be ashamed of beginning with trivial matters. In any case Israel, a small country, cannot undertake great enterprises. A beginning has already been made and not just in the tourist sphere. However, let us not make excessive expectations of any side. Let us speak the language of concrete facts backed by economic interests.

[Barbur] In what way do Israelis perceive the link between their culture and what we describe as the common European heritage?

[Rabin] I am not yet prepared to risk defining Israeli culture, but naturally this culture draws upon the Judaic heritage. Ethnic roots are the second cultural source. For example, Israelis of Polish descent have propagated Polish culture in Israel. The third source is the Israeli reality. Basically, our country consists of immigrants from 80 countries, a cultural melting pot consisting of various influences. Therefore our culture is still in the formative stage, and one cannot yet talk about any homogeneous Israeli culture.

[Barbur] Is the development of extreme right-wing movements in Europe not arousing fears in Israel that Europe has still not settled scores with the past?

[Rabin] There is no doubt that for us Israelis, who are an integral part of world culture, the wave of chauvinism in Western Europe is synonymous with anti-Semitism. I have in mind mainly the FRG, where there are 1.8 million Turks and only 40,000 Jews. Racism in Europe always contains an element of anti-Semitism. Similar phenomena are appearing, although to a lesser extent, in the postcommunist countries, including the republics of

the former USSR. Israel believes that West and East European governments should consider it their duty to combat racism.

[Barbur] What about the situation in the Middle East? Are you still optimistic about the peace process?

[Rabin] Yes. I believe that the talks will be renewed, and I also believe we will exploit the present chances of progress, taking into account the security requirements of our country and, as far as possible, our citizens. I consider a political solution to the conflict with the Arabs, the maintenance of Israel's armed strength, and the effective combating of terrorism to be a cohesive whole. But all this should lead to a solution to the conflict that is not just a military solution.

IDF To Transfer Security in South to Police

TA2804084493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 93 pp A1, 10

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Re'uven Shapira]

[Excerpts] According to a decision recently arrived at in principle, internal security in southern Israeli towns will be transferred from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to the police over the next two years. Wide-ranging discussions between the top brass in the IDF and the Police Ministry were held on the subject over the past year in order to decide which areas would be transferred from the IDF to the police and the Border Police.

A senior IDF source said that "the decision constitutes a real upheaval because up to now the IDF has been exclusively responsible for internal security in all the settlements, kibbutzim, and towns in the south." [passage omitted]

At present, the police are responsible for internal security in most parts of the country under a division decided on many years ago. Under that division—which contained "gray areas" and various distortions which developed over the years and made the lines of responsibility between the IDF and the police unclear—the police are responsible for internal security in all parts of the country except the area north of Nahariyya and south of Ashqelon where responsibility for internal security is supposed to be with the IDF.

Under that "historic" division, the borders and the coastline throughout the country, as well as the adjacent territories up to a certain distance, have been IDF responsibility. In actual fact, even in areas where the IDF is considered responsible for internal security, the Police and Border Police have been in charge of routine security, while coordinating with the IDF, and police activity in these regions has been no different from that in areas considered police responsibility.

When terrorists landed at the Nizzanim beach three years ago, serious hitches surfaced in IDF-police coordination. Areas of responsibility were then redefined between the two bodies to standardize the handling of and responsibility for internal security throughout the country.

In recent days, Israel Police top brass, in collaboration with the Border Police, have decided that responsibility for internal security in the Lakhish area should be transferred to the Police by early 1994, and the entire south—except for the settlements in the Gaza Strip, along the coastline, and the Elat region—by the end of 1995. As things now stand, when the process is concluded, the police will be given responsibility for internal security in the Lakhish, Beersheba, Ashqelon, Ashdod, Qiryat Mal'akhi, Qiryat Gat areas, as well as other settlements.

This will cost 13 million shekels in a one-time effort, in addition to another 10 million shekels annually. [passage omitted]

Settlers: Arab Police 'Fugitives'

TA2504095493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 93 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Responding to Minister Shim'on Peres' statement about the possible establishment of an armed Palestinian police, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has announced that since the settlers will be unable to distinguish the policemen from fugitives, they will regard these armed policemen as fugitives.

Aharon Domb, one of the settlers council leaders, said that the establishment of a Palestinian police armed with automatic weapons will pose a 20,000-times greater security hazard to Israelis in general and the settlers in particular. He asserted that since the settlers will be unable to analyze each situation at every given moment or to ascertain whether an armed man is a wanted terrorist or a policeman, they will use every means at their disposal to defend themselves. He said that Rabin would be personally responsible for the terrible bloodshed throughout the territories that will follow the establishment of a Palestinian police.

Settlers To Establish 2 New Settlements

TA2704144393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Golan Settlements Committee has decided to set up two new settlements in the north of the Golan Heights, in response to the remark by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin according to which the precedent of the peace accord with Egypt makes the negotiations on the Golan difficult. Committee Chairman Eli Malka told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the settlements will be set up with or without the approval of the authorities.

Settlers Warned on 'Ideological Delinquency'

TA2804093193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 93 p 6

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Tzvi Zinger]

[Excerpt] A harsh warning to the settlers, who are threatening to strike at the Palestinian police force which will be established (perhaps) in the territories, was voiced in the cabinet meeting yesterday. Remarks made by cabinet ministers show that the government is determined to use force against settlers who violate the law and attempt to attack the self-government scheduled to be formed in the territories.

Economic Minister Shim'on Shetrit (Labor) described the settlers' threats as "ideological delinquency." He said their objection to the establishment of a police force contradicts a clause in the Camp David accords signed by the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid (Meretz) demanded that the government make clear to the settlers, already at this point, that it will not tolerate any incitement to rebellion. "If the settlers shoot armed Palestinian policemen, the government will take action against them and will immediately crash down any rebellious manifestations," he said.

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said the government must come out against the defamatory efforts of the settlers. [passage omitted]

Police Expand Powers To Counter Illegal Employment

TA2304180293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Police have been given broader powers to enforce restrictions on hiring foreigners and can now slap fines on employers who illegally hire workers from the territories. This was decided at a meeting today between Labor Minister Ora Namir and Police Minister Moshe Shahal. The police officers will be authorized to enter a work place and check whether employees have the proper documents. Employers will face a 2,000-shekel fine for each unlicensed worker from the territories. Ministers Namir and Shahal will also sponsor legislation setting similar fines for Israelis who provide lodging for illegal workers.

Split Over Unemployment Pay to Territories Workers

TA2704105493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The weekly cabinet meeting ended a few minutes ago. There was no political debate today. The ministers, especially Meretz ministers, demanded a political debate, but Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised that the cabinet will devote a special debate to the issue next Sunday. The main issue on today's agenda was once again the closure of the territories. Meretz ministers demanded unemployment payments to those who lost their jobs due to the closure. That is our moral responsibility, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said after the debate.

[Begin Sarid recording] We support the closure, but it cannot go on forever, because it will soon boomerang. Sooner or later the closure will bring economic hardship to the territories and, God forbid, bring them to the verge of hunger. If that happens, the advantages of the closure will turn into disadvantages. Since we support the closure, we think that the unemployed must be compensated in order to enable them to survive. The personal safety of Israeli citizens is worth money, especially since that money is not ours but was deducted from workers from the territories over years. [end recording]

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am also supported the proposal and said that the government must view itself as responsible for employment in the territories.

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur was the main opponent of unemployment payments to the residents of the territories.

[Begin Tzur recording] I think it is an excessive demand. In my view, we have to concentrate on developing sources of employment in the territories. That responsibility is ours, as well as that of other elements. I do not see any international element willing to get involved in that problem; therefore, I think that we have to concentrate on developing sources of employment in the territories. The Israeli interest calls for the continuation of the closure and, of course, the controlled exit of workers. [end recording]

The closure thus continues while unemployment payments to the residents of the territories are not being offered, at least not at present.

Committee Set Up To Develop Territories' Economy

TA2804130393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The government has set up a committee of director generals to deal with the economy of the territories in the wake of the closure and the anticipated changes in the number of people from the territories employed in Israel. The committee will try to find

resources for developing the economy of the territories. It will be headed by Finance Ministry Director General Aharon Fogel.

Likud Calls Special Debate on Autonomy 28 Apr

TA2704061793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has collected the required 30 signatures from Knesset members in order to hold a special debate in the plenum tomorrow, during the Knesset's recess, on the government's intention to offer the Palestinians wide-ranging powers within the framework of autonomy.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that tomorrow the Knesset will also discuss the fate of those Jews remaining in Ethiopia.

'Collaborator' Murdered, Several Wounded

TA2504201293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Kamal al-Arkan, 24, was murdered by masked men in Rafah today. He was suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the village of Burin near Nabulus a 14-year-old boy was slightly wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire this afternoon. The soldiers spotted a suspicious vehicle in the village and signalled the driver to halt. The vehicle stopped and the passengers tried to escape on foot. The soldiers opened fire, wounded the youth and detained two other passengers. The fourth passenger managed to escape.

Four stone throwers were detained in the village of Bayt Immar near Hebron this evening. Two of the four were wounded by soldiers' gunfire.

Six residents in the al-Shati' refugee camp were slightly wounded from gunfire directed by soldiers at stone throwers. The wounded were treated at a hospital and were later sent home.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 25 April adds: "Two Jewish children were wounded near the village of 'Ayn Yabrud this evening from shots fired by soldiers at an Israeli-owned vehicle. The children were evacuated to hospital. One of the children suffered moderate injuries and the other was only slightly wounded. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the children were travelling with their family to the settlement of Kokhav Hashahar. The car passed an IDF force, and Army sources say the soldiers mistakenly believed the car was escaping and opened fire. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident."]

Soldier Injures Assailant in Gaza

TA2704185393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] An Arab resident of Rafah this afternoon attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier with an ax. The soldier was not hurt. He shot the assailant and seriously injured him. The incident took place in the Brazil neighborhood of Rafah. According to Palestinian sources, some 40 Arab residents were lightly injured in riots in the Gaza Strip today.

A general strike was declared in the territories today, following the instructions of the rejectionist and Islamic fronts, protesting the resumption of the peace talks. Fatah issued a counter call, supporting the peace talks and calling on the residents not to strike. In practice, however, a nearly complete strike was observed.

Update on Incidents in Territories 22-24 Apr

TA2504135293

[Editorial Report] Three Hebrew-language newspapers on 25 April write about various incidents in the territories over the last three days.

A report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin in pages A1 and A6 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ notes that "a series of incidents was reported in the Gaza Strip over the weekend in which an inhabitant of Bayt Hanun was killed and, according to Palestinian sources, some 70 Arabs were injured."

"Military sources said that an Army unit in Ramallah yesterday afternoon captured two wanted men from the Janin area. They are 21- year-old Iman Muhammad Anis Jawadat from Silat al-Harithiyah and 32- year-old Khalil Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim from al-Yamun."

A report by Roni Shaqed in page 6 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT notes that "three firebombs were thrown last night at the home of Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. They shattered and ignited on the wall. Frayj was not at home at the time of the incident."

A report by Efrayim Davidi in page 4 of Tel Aviv DAVAR notes that "200 members of the Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in the West Bank held a sit-in at UNRWA's [UN Relief and Work Agency] offices in Ramallah on Thursday," demanding "to lift the closure, allow Palestinian workers to go back to their jobs, and to establish an independent state. The sit-in ended uneventfully."

CNN 'One-Sided,' 'Unfair' Reporting Protested

TA2804073093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry has lodged a protest with CNN of what is termed its one-sided and unfair reporting. Defense Ministry spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami says in a telegram to the president of the network that

recent reports portray actions by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Gaza Strip without referring to the terrorist activities of Palestinians being sought out by the soldiers. He also adds that CNN has been broadcasting pictures of the deportees in south Lebanon in an artificial way and in contrast to other international networks.

Chief of Staff on Army Restructuring

TA2504195493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, IDF chief of staff, by military affairs correspondent Beni Liss; recorded in Baraq's office on 25 April]

[Excerpt] [Liss] Good evening to you, Lieutenant General Baraq.

[Baraq] Good evening to you.

[Liss] When you entered office you said you wanted a smart, quick, and small IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Did you achieve your goal?

[Baraq] We are striving to attain an Army which in future will be able to carry out its missions with fewer casualties. This requires long-term investments to the tune of hundreds of millions of shekels for developing weapons which can contribute toward this end. At the same time, throughout this period we should maintain our present abilities by refurbishing hundreds of tanks, building new tanks, absorbing additional helicopters and fighter jets, and by investing in our existing systems. We are financing this effort by a large manpower cut, as well as by cutting back on our routine operations. This effort is being carried out simultaneously with our fight against the intifadah and terrorism. This is an very hard task, but I have no doubt that this extremely important effort—which has begun during the tenure of my predecessor Dan Shomron and will continue deep into the tenure of the man who will replace me, whoever he be—will bear fruit.

[Liss] You are talking about a small Army, yet the present conscription classes are extremely large. What will you do with all these young men?

[Baraq] We will try to fit the overall recruitment potential to our possibilities. Meanwhile, we have thousands of reservists whose service we could considerably decrease or even terminate, if we could only replace them with regular army soldiers. Before we start shortening the period of service or discharging soldiers on a massive scale, I think we should in future decrease reservists' service in similar positions.

[Liss] Lt. Gen. Baraq, do you think that the IDF's deterrent power has decreased? Does this not follow, for example, from the recent Katyushas attack in Lebanon, against which the IDF reacted with restraint?

[Baraq] I do not believe that there has been an erosion in the IDF's deterrence. In my opinion the Arabs in general and the Syrians in particular are perfectly aware both of Israel's conventional and strategic superiority over them. This awareness is one of the reasons they are willing to hold peace negotiations with us without any preconditions.

[Liss] The peace talks will resume in Washington in two days. What will happen there?

[Baraq] I believe that during the next year we will learn whether we are in the midst of a serious peace process dealing with substance rather than merely with procedures, a process which will eventually result in political agreements, even if not this year. On the other hand, we could find ourselves tottering toward a stalemate later this year, and I believe that such a stalemate could be the beginning of a countdown, even if this take years, toward another military confrontation between us and the Arab world—and I do not know which of the two possibilities will materialize.

[Liss] In your opinion, how will the IDF operate in the framework of the autonomy?

[Baraq] I have no doubt that the autonomy will create a complicated situation. At the same time, since this is one of the objectives of both the present and past Israeli Governments, the IDF and the other security forces will do whatever it takes to allow this new situation to materialize with a minimum of danger to the lives of Jews and Israelis.

[Liss] We have already heard about threats in this context. The Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria have threatened that they will immediately open fire on Arab policemen in the autonomy. We can already see that such a situation could lead to anarchy.

[Baraq] I think we should cross this bridge when we come to it. I do not believe that any of the Israeli citizens in Judaea and Samaria will want to transgress the law. I regard the settlers as a group which has been undergoing extremely grave tests since the beginning of the intifadah, within the course of their daily lives. Altogether they are evincing extraordinary self-control. There are few deviations, a thing which happens in every community, and when this happens we deal with them on an individual basis. [passage omitted]

Islamic Deputies Urge Arabs To Withdraw From Talks

JN2804092293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 26

[Text] Deputies of the Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, have issued a statement on the Arab delegations' participation in the ninth round of negotiations.

The statement says: The ninth round of negotiations in Washington comes after eight rounds which lasted for 16 months and included bilateral and multilateral negotiations. All parties unanimously agree that these negotiations achieved nothing—a result that was emphasized by the Islamic movement deputies since the first round, proceeding from their Islamic constants that are based on accurate knowledge of the Jewish mentality.

The Zionist occupation state has proved its disdain of international resolutions, the last of which is Resolution 799 on the return of Palestinian deportees. Rabin has also proved he is following the march of Shamir and Sharon in annihilating the Palestinian people, attempting to destroy their will, and expelling them from their homeland. After all this, the decision to resume the negotiations with the Zionist enemy contradicts the will of the Arab nation, particularly that of the Palestinian people. This is especially so since the negotiations have proved to be futile, a waste of time, contradictory to the aspirations of the nation, and a relinquishment of the nation's rights and future of its generations.

In light of this, the Islamic Movement deputies demanded that all the Arab delegations withdraw from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. They called for halting direct and indirect contacts with the Jewish enemy and for intensifying international efforts to secure the implementation of Resolution 799 on the immediate and collective return of the brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

The Islamic Movement deputies also called for supporting the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah on both the popular and official levels, especially in light of the comprehensive siege imposed on those people four weeks ago.

The deputies urged negotiating governments to return to their people, seek to mobilize their peoples' steadfastness, and direct all their programs and methodologies toward preparing the nation for a long struggle that will defeat aggression and liberate homelands.

They also urged political parties and forces and honorable writers to prove their credibility in being partial to their nation and its principles and in refusing to submit to the will of America and its brokers.

U.S. Navy Said To Ban Ship From al-'Aqabah Port

JN2704174093 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, 27 Apr (PETRA)—The Jordanian News Agency [JNA] has learned that the U.S. naval forces in the Straits of Tiran today banned a ship flying the Maltese flag and heading for the port of al-'Aqabah, from entering this port, and from emptying its cargo of goods imported for Jordan. JNA has also learned that the ship was banned from docking at the port of al-'Aqabah because its captain is a Yugoslav national.

King Husayn Addresses Television Anniversary Ceremony

JN2704193593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan at a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of Jordan Television and inaugurating Jordan's Space Channel at the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation in Amman on 27 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers: May peace and God's blessings be upon you. I greet you and bless your efforts which have continued for 25 years. These efforts express a quarter of a century of struggle, work, and sacrifices from the phase of foundation and exploration to the painstaking aspiration for advancing toward the threshold of the new Arab Jordanian era and its great changes in order to make the dear homeland a lamp of brilliance and distinction.

The distinction of the Jordanian experience has been, and still is, linked to the free and generous man who is filled with zeal, creativity, and initiative in order to achieve his noble humanitarian ambition, proceeding from an abundant civilization which provides him with visions, and based on tested resolve that will enable him to effect implementations and achievements.

Therefore, we are heading for the threshold of the new Jordanian time and for the peaks of the immortal pan-Arab dream. Our progress is supported by the new democratic Arab forces. In the conscience of all of us lies our national and pan-Arab objectives. We cherish the big national dialogue on this Arab soil. We are specifying the questions of the new phase and seeking to answer them. Now that the lengthy years have been filled with a creative response to the natural, social, and political challenges, the new time has its own big challenges. The whole generation should rise up in order to face these challenges with reason, science, and work.

We have surmounted numerous obstacles. Yet, there are many such obstacles which we will surmount with our firm certainty—the certainty that we carry a message which always supports the right, freedom, justice, and the nation's unity. We understand the questions posed

by the new generation which will carry the banner in the new phase. The spirit of zeal, creativity, and innovation should continue to run in the veins, so we will be able to convey the image of the new Jordan to the world, with all its splendor and pride, taking into consideration the need for adaptation and tackling the new realities in our community, the community of freedom, democracy, and human rights. It is important for performance to stem from certainty, conscience, and clear vision. Performance should not be an instantaneous reaction, an adaptation to events, or a running after events.

The equation of linking power sharing, responsibility, leadership, and pioneering to a longer time and service does not befit such a beautiful homeland as ours—a homeland whose structure is based on the man with the ambitions and hopes present in his conscience. This equation does not befit man's ambitions to remain a free man with a free decisionmaking, presence, and march.

Jordan Television has been a school that trains distinguished cadres and media people. It has long enjoyed national pride because it represents ambitions and the ability to be distinguished. It will remain a national landmark for the vigilant, smart Jordanian response to the new Jordanian time. Hopes will continue to be pinned on our news media in general and our television service in particular, in order to represent democratic emotions and changes and participate in opening the channels of real communication among various sectors and leaderships and also to become open to the community and express its ethical, cultural, economic, and social sentiments on the basis of political pluralism and parliamentary democracy, which both require honesty, frankness, openness, and a comprehensive and responsible national dialogue.

Assessing and criticizing performance is the common human method for correction. This method prevents negativism, repression of feelings, and tension, enabling a large segment to contribute toward constant, comprehensive review. This way, the image of the homeland will always remain bright, and its sons will continue to proudly declare allegiance to it.

The citizen's right to have access to information is the other face of the citizen's desired participation. Through participation, the homeland will be for all, and all will work for the homeland. The methods of correction and censorship will thus have an optimum performance; national gains will be very great; and there will be a stronger determination to undertake development and look forward to what is better.

This requires that the media instill the good values of our community, represented in objective criticism, commenting on texts rather than writers, speaking in a decent language, and passing impartial judgments.

We have established this beautiful homeland with the vigor and pride of men and the blood of righteous martyrs. This approach will continue to enhance our status. We will not be dissuaded, in our noble endeavor, by difficulties, obstacles, deserters, or opportunists. [applause]

Brothers: More than two years ago, the Gulf crisis swept up the Arab nation, despite our utmost efforts to prevent it. This crisis caused major destruction, splits, and breaches among brothers. We found ourselves faced with many forms of abandonment of many of our convictions and the fundamentals of our common thinking and culture. The dream of unity and its plan were deserted, and there was a retreat into the narrow halls of regionalism. Also, the independence of the will and freedom were forsaken, and there was a retreat into dependency, alienation, and falling under the hegemony of the strong. The Arab self, moreover, was stripped of everything related to Arabism and Islam, replacing all of this with the values of the culture of consumerism or the crumbs of the culture of others.

In light of the above, it is incumbent on our media to create a new Arab personality, linked to the history of the nation and its heritage and demonstrating an understanding of the changes of this age. This personality should be enabled to undertake a plan for modern Arab awakening and a united Arab state, for which the Great Arab Revolt was launched—a revolt for which our fathers and forefathers offered huge sacrifices before leaving us the honor of upholding its banner and spreading its message until its great objectives are achieved.

While declaring the inauguration of the Jordanian Space Channel, we pray to God to make it a clear pan-Arab voice committed to freedom and unity, bringing closer disparate views and visions, and reformulating them in a loud cry: Be careful. Wake up Arabs. [applause]

Let the vision be clear and the voice be free and eloquent, with a pan-Arab air and Jordanian features, committed to freedom in the face of despotism; justice in the face of injustice; honesty in the face of falsity; and brotherhood in the face of vindictiveness.

Let Jordan's democratic forums be accessible to every Arab voice that views these forums as an outlet for his hopes, songs, dialogue, and art, as long as this voice believes in the nation and its right to freedom and justice, as well as to a life that safeguards its holy land, dignity, and future.

Brothers, I hope you will continue your efforts with a high measure of resolve. I also hope you will achieve a qualitative shift, after reviewing your current experience, opening the windows of your offices and the various sections of your institution for the new generation which can contribute to this experience with its enthusiasm, vision, and openness. This endeavor will enhance Jordan's national expression to a status that befits the homeland and the message of the nation.

May God grant you success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

U.S. Seen Moving Toward 'Full Partner' Role

JN2804063193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Apr 93 pp 1,6

[By Nirmin Murad from Washington]

[Text] The Clinton administration may be taking its first step towards implementing its pledge to be "full partner" in the Arab-Israeli peace process by calling a first-time closed meeting of all five parties to the negotiations. Washington may be also taking the first concrete step towards affirming the comprehensiveness of a settlement of the conflict.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher was to hold a closed meeting with representatives of all five parties to the talks Tuesday afternoon (Washington time)—a step which has been interpreted positively by the Arab side especially in light of his pledge last week to "actually be evenhanded" between Arabs and Israelis.

Since January the newly-elected administration has been repeatedly saying that it wanted to elavate its role to that of a "full partner"—a concept that was widely speculated on but never concretely defined or tested on the ground because of the four-month delay in reopening talks here.

This being the first round to be held after the Clinton administration came into office in January, the meeting called for by Mr. Christopher was seen by analysts here as first tangible indication of a more active role by the Americans.

"We understand the role of full partner as one that would bridge proposals, find common ground and one that would create conditions (for the U.S. to assume a) role in which it can act as guarantor of a settlement," Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ahshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, said in an interview.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the meeting was called at such an early time in the round and indicates a hightened representation and a higher level involvement," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said.

Added to these elements is a new U.S. initiative to assign liaison officers to each track of negotiations, "which indicates a day to day involvement and understanding of the position of the different parties."

The new liaison officers are a welcome development not only because of the increased U.S. involvement in each track but also because they are more senior than the ones who periodically handled such a U.S. daily involvement with the earlier administration, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said.

While the "full partner" role is viewed as a positive development by the Arab side, Israel's supporters in the U.S. have taken a more apprehensive position. In fact several attempts have been made to clarify the "full partner" concept as one that would preclude added U.S. pressures on the Israelis to be forthcoming in negotiations.

The American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the principal pro-Israeli lobby in the U.S., has circulated an Israeli-tilted "clarification" on what U.S. officials intended the term to mean. That circular, published in their bi-weekly newsletter, extrapolates that full partner does not mean an arbitor (a third party making a decision) nor a mediator (a third party making a public recommendation) nor a judge ("commonly defined" as someone vested with the authority to settle a dispute).

Rather the circular says, full partner means an intermediary (a third party, testing ideas, helping define them and serving as a communications link between the parties), facilitator ("commonly defined" as someome who helps make things easier) and as an honest broker ("commonly defined" as a neutral agent).

Arab negotiators who warn of such attempts at defining the issues and setting the agenda—obviously attempted by the AIPAC definition—believe it is a dangerous spin. They hoped it could be rectified in Tuesday's meeting with Mr. Christopher.

Arab negotiators have viewed the U.S. intention in a more positive light—although the exact definition may be only better understood at the end of this round—which they say is being further consolidated by the sense of "comprehensiveness" that such a meeting confirms.

"The fact that this administration is initiating this round's talks by calling a joint meeting of all parties affirms their commitment to the comprehensiveness of a settlement (to the Arab- Isaeli conflict)", a senior Arab delegate told the JORDAN TIMES.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the Arab parties are meeting as one team which obviously adds to the sense of comprehensiveness," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said.

To the Arab side, the translation of the Christopher meeting as an indication of a commitment to comprehensiveness goes a long way in alleviating the fear of any possiblity of having individual Arab countries sign Camp David-style separate peace treaties with Israel.

The Tuesday afternoon meeting was including heads of all Arab delegations with one extra negotiator from those teams adding up to eight negotiators. The Israelis will be represented by two members from each of their negotiating teams totalling six Israeli negotiators. Jordan will be represented by chief delegate 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Ambassador Fayez al-Tarawinah.

Buwayz Links Committee Formation to Resolution 425

NC2804060793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The bilateral negotiations resumed in Washington yesterday. The first round of talks failed to achieve any positive results.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz cautioned against the failure of this round because this would obstruct the subsequent round of talks. He expressed optimism, however, about future negotiations if matters proceed based on the positive factors that emerged as a result of the U.S. intervention. The foreign minister said that the United States has submitted proposals to advance the negotiations to a stage of applicable proposals.

The foreign minister said Lebanon will accept the formation of a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee if Israel announces its commitment to implement Resolution 425 and withdraw from the south. Buwayz said that any progress in this round will have positive effects on the Lebanese internal situation.

Deportees To Continue Sit-In; Israeli 'Mock Raids' Reported

NC2804104393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees have decided to continue the sit-in they started in front of the Zummarayya checkpoint on Monday to protest the resumption of the peace talks. We have decided to extend the sit-in for another 24 hours, deportees spokesman 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Rantisi said. He added: Tomorrow we will announce our next step. We will not advance toward the Israeli checkpoint, and we have no plans to engage in a confrontation with the Israeli soldiers, he affirmed.

In another development, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids today over Iqlim al-Tuffah and western al-Biqa'.

Israeli Helicopters Overfly Deportees Area 27 Apr

NC2704172493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Three Israeli helicopters flew over Zummarayya area near where the Palestinian deportees are staging a sit-in. One of these helicopters landed on the site and a number of soldiers disembarked and watched the deportees through binoculars. The soldiers left the area after a half hour.

Al-Hariri, Birri Return From European Visit

NC2704194193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, and Edouard Saouma, director general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization arrived in Beirut airport aboard al-Hariri's private plane at 2100 today. [passage omitted]

Following his return, al-Hariri telephoned President Ilyas al- Hirawi and briefed him on his talks in Paris, Rome, and the Vatican.

Interior Minister Returns From Syria

NC2704195993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij and his accompanying delegation tonight returned to Beirut from Damascus. In Damascus, Mirhij held two sessions of talks with his Syrian counterpart Dr. Muhammad Harbah on ways to consolidate cooperation between their respective ministries in accordance with last year's defense and security agreement.

Buwayz, Sudanese State Minister Discuss Relations

NC2804112293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting was held today between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Mustafa Isma'il, Sudanese state minister and secretary general of the International Popular Friendship Council. Sudanese Charge d'Affaires 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Bakhit attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Isma'il said he discussed Sudanese- Lebanese relations and ways to develop them.

The Sudanese Government has accused Egypt of training Sudanese opposition elements in Lebanon to carry out sabotage operations in Sudan. Lebanese Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij has denied this.

Buwayz then received a copy of the credentials of new Sudanese Ambassador Muhammad al-'Abbas Aba-Sa'id, who said relations between the two countries are developing. The ambassador noted that the Lebanese Government will work toward reopening its embassy in Khartoum.

Khaddam on Peace, Lebanon, Other Issues

JN2804082393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stated that Syria is the most stable country in the Third World and that the Syrian political system has proved its efficacy because of this stability over the past 23 years.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN published today, the vice president asked: Why seek other political systems on sale abroad when this political system has provided us with stability, strength, progress, and development? We are satisfied and we develop our system at each phase of development. It is the development of society that pushes the development process forward. Therefore, the desire by some people for changes on the East European pattern are based on nonscientific and unobjective grounds.

Khaddam said: Since President Hafiz al-Asad assumed the leadership of the country, we in Syria have been studying every issue and each step patiently and we now have a mechanism of thought and action. We are satisfied with this. We have gone through many experiments that were useful to Syria and the Arabs. He expressed the hope that others will study the Syrian experiment to avoid many problems.

On the tendentious campaigns by some hostile media against Syria, Khaddam said that such campaigns are engineered by the Zionist circles in the United States with the aim of serving Israel. He asserted that Syria cannot take any measures that would limit the Syrian, Lebanese, or Palestinian national struggle against the Israeli aggression.

Khaddam said: Those who accuse Syria of terrorism because it does not suppress those who resist occupation must rewrite the history of their own countries. He alluded to the United States, which fought the British in the war of independence to liberate the country and which extended formidable assistance to the French secret resistance against the Nazis as well as to the Contra organizations in Nicaragua which were violating public security and order. On the drug issue, they know perfectly well that Syria has done more than other world states. They are also aware of the great quantities of drugs which we seize from time to time. The UN antidrug office is aware of all these things.

On the issue of Syrian Jews, Khaddam asked: Why this interest in a single Syrian Jewish citizen when millions of Arab citizens who are suffering the oppression of the Israeli occupation go unnoticed? Khaddam said: The entire issue is connected with the Israeli interests and, therefore, we deal with it warily.

On the phenomenon of religious extremism, Khaddam said: The Islamic current in Syria is committed to the state's general policy, be it domestic or external. It supports this policy. Therefore, there are no signs of extremism or problems in Syria.

On how to face the new world order following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Khaddam said: Strengthening the internal front is the basis on which we can stand to confront the strong winds that are blowing over the world. We are also working to create a better Arab climate and are continuing our international contacts, be it with the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organizations, or others in order to draw lines that would make the damage as small as possible. He said: Our ability will be greater if a suitable Arab stand is taken to face these challenges.

On the peace talks in light of the continuing Israeli intransigence, Khaddam said: The aim of the talks is to liberate the land and regain Palestinian rights. We must expect the Israeli enemy to place numerous obstacles to abort this process. He pointed out that the many recent discussions have tackled these obstacles and that everybody came to the conclusion that the disadvantages of continuing the talks are fewer than the disadvantages of a halt in the talks which will provide the Israelis with a cover for the obstacles which they place on the path of the peace process. Therefore, Khaddam said, a decision was made to participate in the current Washington talks where substantive issues are being discussed, and in the light of this, coordination meetings among the Arab parties concerned will be held later in order to evaluate every phase of the negotiations.

Alluding to the Zionist Movement's ambitions, which will not stop at anything if the Arab conditions remain as they are now, Khaddam said: Israel is aware that peace necessitates withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, something which contravenes the Zionist Movement's strategy. We must expect maneuvers and various actions aimed at preventing peace in the region which is desired by everyone and which is required on the regional and international levels. Therefore, Israel must be pressured to comply with and implement the principles on which the peace initiative was based.

On the new U.S. Administration's stand on the peace process, the vice president said: Through statements and declarations, the U.S. Administration has demonstrated that it is serious in pursuing peace and that it will do whatever it can to push this process forward. We must give the U.S. Administration this opportunity in order to see the extent of its effectiveness and seriousness.

Khaddam expressed the hope that the stands which were declared in Washington during Rabin's visit will not be the basis of U.S. policy.

On whether the ninth round of talks is the end of everything or a new beginning, Khaddam said: We set for ourselves the aim of reaching a just and comprehensive peace and we must grant this opportunity the possibility of continuity to realize this aim. However,

this continuity does not mean an infinity and we must await the results of this round because it constitutes a test for both the Israeli side and the U.S. Administration.

The vice president said: The Arab delegations are negotiating within the same, agreed upon framework of Arab action. These delegations did not go to the negotiations table because they felt that they were weak. Had we had such a feeling, we would not have gone to these talks. We are in a position that enables us to lead the political process and nobody can impose on us anything that contravenes our interests and aims. Whenever we feel that there are attempts to impose things on the Arabs in a away that contravenes their interests, nobody will be able to push us a hairbreadth away from our national and pan-Arab interests.

Khaddam added: War and peace require planning and work. Moreover, war requires that work should be within a definite framework. The same thing applies to peace. The requirements of this peace are linked with UN Security Council resolutions. We are committed to the peace requirements established by these resolutions. We are prepared for peace. Had we been unprepared, we would not have gone to the talks.

On Arab solidarity, Khaddam said: The issue of Arab solidarity must be presented in a serious and tangible way regardless of whether or not there are peace talks. Serious threats are overwhelming the Arab interests and nation. The future generations will not forgive us unless we do what is needed to restore effective Arab solidarity based on principles that could guarantee its continuity.

On the Syrian role in Lebanon, Khaddam said: Syria is concerned with preserving the unity of Lebanon, the sisterly Arab country, and with stopping the civil war and restoring the role of Lebanon's institutions. Concerning the redeployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon, these and other issues concerning the aspects of ties between the two countries, are governed by the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries. There is another issue connected with the security of Lebanon and the security of Syria. It is the result of the Israeli occupation. We cannot ignore this issue. In 1982, the Israelis invaded Lebanon and reached a point that was only 32 km from Damascus. Syria is the only Arab state that extended to Lebanon serious assistance to build its army and internal security forces. Therefore, such issues are discussed by the two governments in light of their joint interests.

Khaddam added: Lebanon's stability serves the stability of Syria and the region and Syria is directly affected by the Lebanese security because of the historical links between the two countries. He affirmed that Syria succeeded in restoring peace to Lebanon and solving the Lebanese crisis, which had been engaging Syria's attention for so long and which took a great amount of President Hafiz al-Asad's time.

On the Syrian-Kuwaiti ties, Khaddam said that they are good, voicing the hope that they will grow continuously to serve the interests of the two sisterly countries.

On the Syrian-Palestinian ties, Khaddam said: Our ties with the Palestinian people are the same as our ties with any fraternal Arab people. He alluded to Syria's pan-Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause. He said: As for the diverse Palestinian views on the peace process, there is no Palestinian unanimity on this process in the first place. It is natural that some would go along with it and others would not. Each has his own justifications. We must understand the Palestinian position in light of the overall Palestinian difficulties and suffering and in light of the expansionist Zionist onslaught. Thus, we would find ourselves cooperating with everyone on the basis of brotherhood, assistance, and solidarity.

On Syria's relations with Iran, Khaddam, said: The Syrian-Iranian ties are good and are steadily being strengthened. He pointed out that these ties played a positive role during the Iraq-Iran war and helped prevent the war from extending to the Gulf region, and that these relations played a big role during the Iraqi troops invasion of Kuwait when Iran took its well-known position, which was important and basic with regard to Kuwait.

On the Syrian-Turkish relations, Khaddam described them as good. He said: There are many issues between us and Turkey, such as the water problem. Like any other neighborly countries, we work to solve all outstanding issue through contacts and dialogue.

Security Talks With Lebanon End; Minutes Signed

JN2704183293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1618 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA)—A Syrian delegation under Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and a Lebanese delegation under Lebanese Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij ended official talks at the Interior Ministry this afternoon. The members of the two delegations attended.

The joint minutes of the meeting between the two sides were then signed. Muhammad Harbah signed the minutes for Syria while Muhammad Mirhij signed for Lebanon.

The minutes cover combatting crime and drugs, in addition to security cooperation between the two countries and ways to bolster it to protect the citizens, and facilitate formalities, particularly at the border posts between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Diplomats' Abductor Insists on Brothers' Release

BK2704124193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—In a message conveyed by fax, the Afghan mojahedin commander who abducted the three European diplomats from near the Pak-Afghan border on Friday expressed his resolve not to release them until his two men arrested by the Frontier Corp from Balochistan were freed.

Mohammad Nabi Noorzai, a commander of the Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] (Hekmatyar), conveyed his message to this correspondent through his men from the Pakistani border town of Chaman on Monday evening. He wanted it aired on the BBC "so that the confusion prevailing about his motives were cleared", as his men put it.

Noorzai denied a statement by Abdul Khaliq, Afghan consul-general in Quetta who had claimed that the three diplomats were held for entering Afghanistan without a visa and would be freed soon.

Demanding the release of Mohammad Rahim and Haq Nazar, Commander Noorzai maintained that the Frontier Corps arrested them on the charges of gun-running though they couldn't recover any gun from their vehicle. He complained that the Pakistani authorities refused to release the two on bail despite the fact that he had offered Rs [rupees] 200,000 as surety.

The message said the European diplomats and a Hazara tribal elder, Agha Saadat Ali, were safe and sound in his custody somewhere in Spin Boldak in Qandahar province near the Pak-Afghan border.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Stephan Elhert of Germany and Gert Piening of Netherlands, all based in Pakistan, were abducted from near Chaman on Friday. Agha Saadat Ali, the nephew of late Balochistan Governor Gen (Retd) Musa who was their host in Quetta, was also abducted.

Meanwhile Afghan authorities could not manage the release of the British, German and Dutch diplomats, who were according to Afghan consul general in Quetta, arrested on the charge of violating the immigration laws of Afghanistan on Thursday evening.

Haji Abdul Khaliq, Afghan consul general based in Quetta to the news that the investigations to ascertain the actual causes of their unlawful entry into Afghanistan were still in progress and the release of the diplomats is possible only after completion of these 'investigations'.

He however, claimed the diplomats would be released in a day or two. Earlier, the Afghan diplomat had announced the diplomats would be released on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a special emissary of Governor Kandhar Haji Agha held a meeting with Mohammad Nabi Noorzai at Spin Boldak town in Afghanistan on Monday but it remained inconclusive.

Now it is learnt that Afghan consul in Quetta, Haji Abdul Khaliq who is an elder of Noorzai tribe, would himself go to Spin Boldak today (Tuesday) to persuade captors to release them.

It may be mentioned here the captors are still stressing on the acceptance of their demands that the two arrested brothers of Mohammad Nabi Noorzai should be released as a ransom for the return of the diplomats.

Nangarhar Governor Attempting Poppy Eradication

BK2704110993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Jalalabad—The poppy growers, despite restriction imposed by the government of Nangarhar, have cultivated poppy crop in different areas specially Mahmendary and Bati Kot districts.

The crop has been ripped now and the growers are busy harvesting it. They have adopted different ways and means to escape the notice of the government. Some of the growers have cultivated it in the center of wheat and other crops.

The Nangarhar governor, Haji Abdol Qadir, had taken strict action against its growers, and on Sunday an anti-poppy drive was also launched from a two canal plot.

A treaty has also been signed between the Nangarhar government and the Mohmand Dara tribe according to which the provincial government had to construct two dams and in turn the residents of Mohmand Dara would abandon cultivating opium. The governor claimed that due to this nearly 90 to 93 percent cultivation was stopped whereas only some seven percent cultivated it.

But now once again people have violated the treaty and cultivated the crop in various areas.

When the Nangarhar governor, Haji Abdol Qadir was contacted, he said: "we have launched the campaign to completely destroy the crop and our efforts will continue." This campaign has succeeded us in reducing the ration to 40 percent". He added that Islam has also declared it a menace for the society and we will fight against it.

Bangladesh

Opposition Plans Antigovernment Campaign 28 Apr

BK2804075193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Dhaka, April 28 (AFP)—Major Bangladeshi opposition political parties, including main opposition

party Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League (AL), are to launch a joint anti-government campaign on Wednesday, sources said.

Political sources said the decision was taken after two days of talks among opposition groups, marking the first time the faltering opposition alliance has reunited since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia won Bangladesh's first free elections in 1991.

Observers here said the new alliance was partly sparked by police action against an anti-fundamentalist group in March and again on Sunday, when clashes left some 200 injured during a sit-in demonstration to demand fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami chief Golam Azam be brought to trial.

The anti-government campaign is based on three points.

They plan to protest against the government's "evil move" to give legal protection to Azam, whom opposition parties say should be brought to trial under the 1973 International War Crimes Act for crimes allegedly committed during Bangladesh's 1971 war for independence from Pakistan.

They would also protest government restrictions and attacks on rallies and staging strikes, which they say curb democratic rights.

Thirdly, they would protest the alleged government conspiracy against the spirit of the war for independence and to demand a ban on the rightwing Freedom Party (FP), fundamentalist Jamaat and communal politics.

Asked whether the campaign could hurt Bangladesh's fledgling democracy, one opposition source said: "We have done nothing unconstitutional and are only trying to protect our constitutional rights of free speech, movement and protests."

However, Zia has lashed out at the opposition, and urged Bangladeshis to work hard for national development.

"The opposition is not only anti-government, today it is also anti-people," the prime minister said.

"They are not friends of people (as) they will call strikes and then demand national development ... it is not possible," she said at a rally outside the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka.

She said the opposition was hindering her government's welfare programmes for the masses.

The opposition alliance, led by AL, has announced its support for the campaign, including a May 9 demonstration in front of the national parliament.

It has called for a nationwide general strike on May 13.

Azam, 71, is a Bangladeshi by birth who left for Pakistan before the 1971 war with Pakistan ended and was stripped of his citizenship in 1973.

He returned in 1978 with a Pakistani passport and appealed for his citizenship to be restored.

Azam was arrested in 1992 for allegedly violating Bangladesh's Foreigners' Act by becoming Jamaat Chief and a seperate court is hearing a petition against his detention.

The Bangladesh Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the High Court to delay judgement on restoring Azam's Bangladeshi citizenship. It set the date for a hearing on the government petition for June 14, court officials said.

Current State of Economy Reflects Dualism

BK2604123093 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] The current state of Bangladesh's economy reflects a dualism. Efforts for macro-economic stabilisation have yielded good results but the micro or sector-specific performance, representing the ground-level economic situation facing tbe individual operator- units or enterprises, continue to remain lacklustre, threatening durability of the macro-economic success.

Tbe overall economic growth performance, as measured by real or inflation-adjusted value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in fiscal 1992-93, is quite credit-worthy. On the basis of the performance trends in key sectors in the first half of the fiscal year (July- December, 1992), tbe growth rate is likely to be around 5 percent. Real GDP growth was about 4 percent in 1991-92. Tbe better performance in the current financial year is mainly attributable to bumper rice crop which is estimated at over 9.5 million tons.

But this encouraging production, particularly in food crop sub- sector has led to a price-crunch at the growers level, reflecting marketing problems, storage difficulties, poor hoarding or retention capacity, disorganised trading activities and other imperfections.

This view has been expressed by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in its monthly Chamber News.

In tbe industrial sector, the production performance has not been up to expectations in most sub-sectors. Most of the nationalised industrial units, particularly those in jute, textiles and sugar are faced with the problems of unsold accumulated stocks, worsening their liquidity situation. The overall losses of the public sector will remain at high levels as before. Most of the private sector industrial units are faced with a sluggish situation, showing either decline in growth or only marginal improvement. Tbe sluggishness of the manufacturing industry can be attributed to a generally weak aggregate demand, free flow of smuggled goods, tariff and duty anomalies. Labour unrest, work stoppages, localised law and order problems remain destabilising factors. Power failures and power shortage pose wide-spread problems.

While the Government in its fiscal management has succeeded in limiting its current expenditure growth—

less than the nomimal growth in GDP and maintaining its revenue collection target, its development expenditures, a vital necessity to stimulate the economy, have not been increasing. Expenditures under Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the first half of current fiscal year represented only 25.3 percent of the year's operational ADP at Taka 86.5 billion. The poor ADP implementation as much as its low efficiency of public sector investments in general, at a time when domestic resources availability for funding Government's investment programme is better than before, reflects one major economic management problem.

The country's external current account deficit is likely to be reduced to three per cent of the GDP this year. The inflationary rate, according to the latest official figures, is now hovering around 4.5 per cent on an average annual basis.

Export receipts in the first half of current fiscal year totalled U.S. $1205.72 million compared to U.S. $907.21 million in the corresponding period last year. Though in the earnings recorded a 32.92 percent growth during the period under report, these were 10.32 percent lower than the target. What perhaps is of more concern is that export competitivenes of most products has continued to suffer. Average unit prices of export products, both primary and manufactured have declined. The price decline was 3 percent for primary commodities and 11 percent for manufactured goods in July- December, 1992. And, nothing has so far been done to compensate the exporters and to enable them to make sustained efforts to boost export earnings which is one major goal of the Government's policies.

In import sector, trading activities have by and large remained sluggish. The import of capital goods has not picked up much because of slowed-down investment activities. The Government's import procurement in the first half of the current fiscal year was below the level to maintain the ADP expenditure for the year. Import of fabrics under back-to-back Letters of Credits for the export-oriented garments sector has, however, recorded a growth because of sizeable increase in export in the readymade garments sector.

On the whole, much of the beneficial impact of the Government's marco-economic success witnessed so far continue to be eroded by the unsatisfactory performance in most micro sectors, both public and private. Declining labour productivity and indiscipline, declining export competitiveness of the major export products, lack of inter- ministerial coordination in policy implementation, and continuing high system loss, pilferage and inefficiency, particularly in public sector have exacerbated the problems. The financial sector is also in a bad shape, the MCCI opined.

To stimulate the economy, the Government has, of late, taken moves to make a more effective use of the monetary policy. Bank rate has been lowered but mere lending cuts are not likely to lead automatically to economic buoyancy unless the problems relating to weak demand for investments are attended to. Meanwhile, the policy environment continue to suffer from implementation problems at different levels, and one reason, for this is lack of inter-ministerial coordination, which is responsible for many incongruities and inconsistencies in the overall policy framework. The Government needs to move quickly with sector-wide measures if the situation at micro-industries level is to be stimulated to reinforce macro-economic stability, the Chamber News concluded.

India

Army Operation Quashes Kashmir Police Protest

Army Fires on Marchers

BK2704141893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 27 Apr 93

[By Izar Wani]

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 27 (AFP)—Indian Army troops seized a barracks of the striking Kashmir police force here on Tuesday after paramilitary border guards broke up a police protest march with gunfire, wounding three men.

Hundreds of soldiers in full battlegear drove into the police residential complex in jeeps and armoured vehicles, disarming about 200 policemen bunkered down there, officials and witnesses said.

The police surrendered their weapons and offered no resistance, they said. Police headquarters continued, however, to be under the control of nearly 4,000 policemen gathered on the grounds of the building.

The Army action came on the sixth day of a walkout by policemen outraged by the death of a constable arrested by the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) on suspicion he had links with Muslim militants.

The strikers are demanding the sacking and arrest of police superintendent K. Rajendran Kumar who, they allege, condoned the killing of the Muslim constable, Riaz Ahmed, last week.

BSF troopers on Tuesday opened fire on policemen to foil an attempted march from police headquarters to offices of the Srinagar city administration. Three policemen were wounded and hospitalised, witnesses said.

The action gave way to a tense standoff between police and the BSF, some 1,000 of whom were positioned outside the complex. A BSF officer said his men were waiting for orders to storm the building to disarm the strikers.

Kashmir police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi, his deputy Azhar Nomani and Memood ul Rehman, a senior

administrator of Kashmir, were inside the building as the strikers demanded the withdrawal of the Army and the BSF from the area.

Ashok Patel, a BSF inspector-general, warned the police to give up their "stubborness" or face tough action. Electricity to police headquarters was cut off.

But the protestors, who parked a bullet-proof car to block the building's gate and stocked themselves with additional ammunition from the armoury, paid no heed after defying an ultimatum to return to their posts by 1:00 p.m. (0730 GMT) Tuesday.

The strikers rejected police Chief Bedi's ultimatum to return to work or face the loss of wages and legal action.

"We want justice," shouted the protestors. "Down with Bedi."

"There is no question of going back to work unless our demands are met," said a spokesman for the striking policemen. "This is not a mutiny but a fight for justice."

Fire brigade personnel in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir and urban hub of a bloody Muslim secessionist movement, joined the police in a show of sympathy Tuesday.

The police also want the release and reinstatement of some 500 colleagues arrested or dismissed from their jobs for alleged links with Muslim militants, whose violent four-year secessionist campaign has cost thousands of lives.

Many officers among the state police force are sympathetic to Kashmiri Muslim demands for independence from India. Tens of thousands of Indian Army and BSF troops have been deployed in the state to quell the insurgency.

Crackdown 'Imminent'

BK2704161093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 27 (AFP)—The Indian Army late Tuesday ordered thousands of striking Kashmir policemen holed up inside their control room here to surrender with their weapons, witnesses said.

Some 1,0000 soldiers began asking the defiant policemen to end their six-day-old siege after talks between police chiefs and the strikers failed, witnesses and police sources said.

Troops were giving the surrender calls over loudhailers fitted on their armoured jeeps, the witnesses said. "An army crackdown appears imminent," a top police officer said.

But the policemen, whose number inside the control room is estimated at 4,000, refused to give up and were shouting slogans denouncing Kashmir Director General of Police Balwinder Singh Bedi, the witnesses said.

Bedi earlier urged a group of eight representatives of the strikers at a 90-minute meeting to ask their colleagues to surrender to the army with their weapons immediately.

The policemen launched an indefinite strike last week after a constable, arrested by the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) on charges of being linked to Muslim separatists, died in custody.

The strikers want the arrest and sacking of Senior Superintendent of Police K. Rajendran Kumar, saying he condoned the death of Constable Riaz Ahmed. Kumar has denied the charge.

Kashmir authorities have cut off telephone and water connections to the police headquarters. But witnesses said the policemen were waving their weapons and refusing to give themselves up.

Police sources said the soldiers were backed by some 500 BSF personnel, who had also ringed nearby residential areas in a bid to prevent Muslim residents from taking to the streets in sympathy.

Army Storms Control Room

BK2804005093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0041 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 28 (AFP)—Indian Army troops stormed the police control room here early Wednesday and disarmed hundreds of policemen in a bloodless operation, crushing an unprecedented six-day strike.

Nearly 500 soldiers in battle fatigues scaled the outer walls and jumped into the complex from all sides at 4:30 a.m. (2300 GMT Tuesday), then immediately began snatching weapons held by the policemen, witnesses said.

The sudden pre-dawn assault, although expected, caught most of the nearly 1,000 policemen by surprise and they gave up their rifles without resistance, a police officer said.

A few soldiers quickly opened the building's rear gates to let in armoured vehicles while the entire area was floodlit by the Army, which had ringed the huge complex and clamped a curfew in this city late Tuesday.

The troops later took over the armoury, dragged out a handful of policemen who tried to hide inside the control room and rescued Kashmir Director General of Police Balwinder Singh Bedi and his colleagues, who had been held hostage.

"We wanted a bloodless operation and we have been successful," a beaming Bedi told AFP. "The policemen came to me three hours ago and said they wanted to surrender and apologise. But I told them things had gone out of my hand.

"Thank God everything has ended smoothly," he added.

"The Army has done an excellent job," added Kashmir's Additional Chief Secretary Mehmood ul Rehman, who is in charge of the Home Department. "They have taken charge of everything, including the armoury."

Thousands of policemen laid siege to the control room from last Thursday after the death in custody of a constable, Riaz Ahmed, arrested by the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) on charges of being linked to Moslem militants.

The strikers demanded the arrest of Senior Superintendent of Police K. Rajendran Kumar, saying he had condoned Ahmed's death. Kumar denied the charge, and his transfer Monday failed to end the crippling protest.

But hundreds of the estimated 4,000 policemen escaped from the control room in small groups after the Army arrived in the area, leaving about 1,000 defiant policemen armed with a wide variety of weapons.

Bedi said all policemen in the complex had been arrested.

"They will be screened later and contaminated elements will be prosecuted," he said, as soldiers ordered the dazed policemen to squat on the ground outside the control room.

Some policemen were still shouting "We want justice" slogans, the witnesses said.

The army operation ended a tense standoff which at one point looked likely to spark a showdown between the troops and policemen, who parked a bullet-proof car to block the main gate of the control room.

Many of the policemen waved their AK-47 and self-loading rifles at the soldiers.

Earlier Tuesday, the Army took control of police barracks at Manigam town, nearly 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of here, while the BSF took over a police armoury at nearby Zawan, officials said.

Troops in full battle gear also drove into the police residential complex here in jeeps and armoured vehicles, disarming some 200 policemen bunkered down there, officials and witnesses said.

There was no resistance from Kashmiri policemen reported at any of the places.

Many Kashmiri policemen are known to be sympathetic to Moslem militants fighting to secede Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. But this was the first time hundreds of them had gone on a strike.

'Swift' Operation Ends Revolt

BK2804032293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the agitating personnel of the State Armed Police have been disarmed in a swift operation by the Army at the police control room, Srinagar, early this morning. The director general of state police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, told an AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent that the operation started at 0400 and was completed in 15 minutes without a shot being fired. About 150 weapons were taken from the policemen. Mr. Bedi said the situation is fully under control. A precautionary curfew was, however, in operation in Srinagar and Anantnag areas since last night.

Bombay Police Recover Arms, Ammunition

BK2704165093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Bombay police recovered 63 rounds of AK-56 rifles and two magazines last night from Kanju Marg in the north suburbs of Bombay. In another seizure, the police unearthed 17 high displacement hand grenades concealed at a public place at Bandra in western suburbs. The police made the seizure following a disclosure by a detenu [detainee] during interrogation.

Commentary Supports Extending Antiterrorism Act

BK2804065393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Commentary by All India Radio correspondent Kajal Das]

[Text] The Central Government's move to extend the provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act—TADA—by another two years clearly indicates the new dimensions the menace of terrorism is assuming within the country. The act, which was originally passed in 1985, was earlier extended on three occasions for periods of two years. The amendment to extend the act's provision once again till the 23d of May 1995, introduced in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, says that continued terrorist violence has made it imperative for the government to extend the provisions of the act from time to time. But what assumes special significance this time is that the act, which was initially meant for Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Northeastern states, now covers Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat and West Bengal.

No doubt the recent bomb blasts in Bombay and Calcutta, terrorist activities in the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh and similar activities in other parts of the country have prompted the government to take this step. Moreover, terrorism has changed its color and complexion over the years. What once started as isolated incidents in small pockets of the country has now become a terrible menace with international links. The terrorists are using sophisticated modern weaponry and communications system, getting training in handling this equipment across the border and spreading their tentacles to hitherto unaffected areas. The investigations into the Bombay blasts so far have established how foreign

agencies are using local recruits to kill and maim innocent people and spread terror.

In view of this no one can question the wisdom of extending the provisions of the act. On earlier occasions also, to combat terrorist violence in Punjab and Kashmir valley, the provisions of the act were made more stringent. In 1987, special courts were set up for in-camera hearing of TADA cases and provisions were introduced to give legality to the confessions made by an accused before a senior police officer, putting the onus of proving his innocence on the accused himself and making the grant of bail difficult. This time around, the government has also introduced some new provisions to combat the changing character of terrorism. However, there should be a word of caution about the use of powers given under act to the police and the administrative machinery. Past experience has shown that judicious use of these powers coupled with concerted efforts to take the people into confidence is the only effective means of combating this 20th centure menace.

Minister Defends Actions in Security Scandal

BK2704164693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Union Minister Mr. B. Shankaranand has denied any impropriety or irregularities in the investments made by the Oil Industry Development Board [OIDB] under his chairmanship. In his three-hour long deposition before the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probing the securities scandal, he also denied any involvement of brokers nor any influence of his sons and daughters in these transactions. The JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, says:

[Begin Mirdha recording] His main thrust of the answer was that he continued the practise that was going on before he assumed charge as chairman of OIDB, and, secondly, that he always accepted the highest offer which was most beneficial to the board. He asserted that he always acted on the advice of the financial adviser of the ministry. [end recording]

Mr. Shankaranad also told the JPC that the earlier practice of accepting the highest offer of interest received from any bank after the due date was changed after the scam broke out. He said OIDB has decided to give an opportunity to all banks to revive their bids to match the highest offer.

Cryogenic Engine for Rocket Technology Developed

BK2704131693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Indian Space Research Organization has developed a one-tonne cryogenic engine in its ongoing program to indigenously develop rocket technology. The Parliamentary Committee for Science and Technology, Environment, and Forest was informed today that the transfer of technology on cryo-engines from Russia is going on schedule and the first launch of GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle] is slated for 1995-96.

Prime Minister Pledges Priority for Defense Spares

BK2704082793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] New Delhi—The Government plans to chalk out a conceptual security framework for the next two decades in the context of the changed international environment.

Inaugurating the annual naval commanders conference on Thursday, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, who also holds the Defence Minister's portfolio, called upon various ministries including the Ministry of Defence, External Affairs, Finance and the defence services to deliberate and make an assessment of the country's defence requirements.

Stating that the defence forces requirements, to which the Government was alive, would get priority, Mr. Rao asked the commanders to carefully prioritise their needs within the available resources.

The Prime Minister assured the naval commanders that top priority was being given to the provision of spares, as the country couldn't afford its hardware to remain idle.

As the role of the Navy and tbe Coast Guard had assumed greater importance in the present security conditions the Prime Minister stressed for greater vigil particularly by the Navy against anti- national elements and smugglers, to thwart any attempts by outsiders to sneak into the country and create disturbances.

Earlier, Naval chief Admiral L. Ramdas, who chaired the conference emphasised upon the need to have a balanced Navy to meet the challenges of the future.

Defence Secretary K. A. Nambiar expressed his resolve to work out a consensus approach while dealing with problems faced by the Navy. He assured that naval requirements were being looked into and were likely to be met within the existing resources.

The Naval chief highlighted upon the naval operations and exercises of the past year and brought out the role played by the Navy in furthering national aims.

Among others present at the conference were Mr. Mallikarjun, Minister of State, for Defence the chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshall N.C. Suri, the Director General Coast Guard and high ranking naval commanders and officials from the Defence Ministry.

Minister Positive About Defense Capabilities

BK2704162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, has said that India is not bothered about Pakistan having nuclear capabilities. Intervening in the debate on the defense budget, he said India is ready for any eventuality. The minister said despite New Delhi's efforts to have normal relations with Pakistan, Islamabad has not responded to India's peace initiative. [word indistinct] India's achievements in defense production, he said the country is producing 90 percent of its defense requirements. He said the main battle tank, Arjun, is one of the best in its class and India is also not lagging behind in missile technology. The minister said the country has successfully tested pilotless plane.

Earlier, several members called for increased defense preparedness in view of the turbulance in the neighborhood. Initiating the discussion, Mr. Jaswant Singh of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] pointed out that the defense allocation in India is declining while that of our neighbors is increasing sharply. He also called for a clearcut defense policy for the country.

Rao: Defense Preparedness at 'Optimum Level'

BK2804075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has declared that the country's defense preparedness continues to be at the optimum level and it will not be allowed to be affected in any way. Replying to the discussion on the demands for grants of the Defense Ministry in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said at the same time our defense policy does not have any aggressive design.

Replying to points made by the members, he said the government is reviewing the question of setting up a national security council and the decision will be taken soon. He said it is his view that such a council will be useful in certain respects.

The prime minister said after the Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin's, visit to India there has been a gradual improvement in the supply position and spare parts from that country. He said in the meanwhile the government has also taken several measures to indigenize the production of several spare parts.

Russian Defense Official Views Co-Production

BK2704140493 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 22—Colonel General Petr Stepanovich Deynekin, Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Air Force, arrived here today on a week-long visit.

Accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Nina Deynekin, Col. Gen. Deynekin is leading a high-level CIS Defence delegation. He has come on the invitation of the Indian Air Force [IAF] Chief, Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri.

At the airport, the Deinekin couple was received by Air Chief Marshal Suri and his wife, Mrs. Asha Suri.

Soon after his arrival, Col. Gen. Deynekin laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti [Immortal Soldiers Monument]. Later, he was presented a guard of honour at the Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan, where began the first round of discussions between the two sides; the Indian side was represented by Air Chief Marshal Suri.

In the afternoon, Col. Gen. Deyneken called on the Chief of the Army Staff and the Chief of the Naval Staff, General S.F. Rodrigues and Admiral L. Ramdas, respectively.

During the talks, it is believed that Russia is likely to renew its offer to India for joint manufacture of its long range interceptor SU-27 and setting up assembly plants for the IAF jet aircraft MiG-29.

Besides covering wide-ranging issues, including discussions on the Russian offer of joint development of its SU-54 advanced jet trainer, the two sides will also talk about the issue of supply of spare parts for the Russian origin equipment now in use with all the three services.

As far as the IAF is concerned, it has Russian origin fighter aircraft like MiG-21, which forms the major part of the Air Force fleet, and further advance versions of MiG series, and helicopters like MI-8, MI-17 and MI-26, transport planes AN-12 (which have almost been phased out), AN-32 and IL-76. Besides the IAF, the Navy and the Army have been using Russian origin missiles, radars and guns.

The disintegration of the USSR created the problem of shortage of spare parts and other facilities due to the political situation.

If India accepts the Russian offer to buy and co-produce its SU- 27 in the country, it would place the nation in military aviation way ahead of the other air forces of the world. The IAF is the world's fourth largest Air Force. By jointly making SU-27, the two countries can export it to many potential buyers and earn much needed foreign exchange.

China has already purchased SU-27 and Pakistan has shown keen interest to procure the long-range interceptor.

Also, one major area which is likely to be discussed in detail is the much awaited upgradation of MiG-21 which are about 300 in the IAF squadrons.

Spokesman Rebuffs Pakistan's Charge on Hijackings

BK2704145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] India today dismissed as ridiculous the Pakistan Government statement implying that New Delhi is engineering hijackings and endangering the lives of its citizens to embarrass Islamabad. Commenting on the statement, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that the question does not arise as to why the hijackers in most of the cases wanted to head for Lahore. The spokesman said the reason for not allowing hijackers permission to land in recent cases is clearly due to increasing pressure from the international community on Pakistan because of that country's sponsorship of terrorism.

Need To Counter Pakistan's Hostile Propaganda Noted

BK2704162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs has suggested several measures to protect India abroad in its true perspective and to neutralize hostile propaganda by Pakistan. In its report presented to both the houses today, the committee said a senior diplomat should take full charge of external publicity and press relations in all important missions. It called for closer interaction of our foreign missions with non-resident Indians. It also urged the government to appoint a high-power committee to review the functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Threat From Afghans' Stinger Missile Noted

BK2704150393 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 93 p 13

[By Prashant Dikshit]

[Text] Is the discovery of ultrasophisticated weapons in Bombay merely the tip of an iceberg and is the calamity of attacks by surface to air missiles on our aircraft at our doorsteps? Events perhaps indicate that the spectre of the 'Stinger' looms large.

The Afghan Mojahedin groups received an aid package of nearly $6000 million from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia during the course of the infernal Afghan war. The package included three different makes of surface-to-air missiles. All these missiles were of the man- portable variety and were specially designed to shoot down even high speed, low-flying aircraft. The missiles were the American 'Stinger', the Russian 'Strella' (popularly called SAM-7) and the British 'Blowpipe'.

In February last year, 'BAKHTAR', the Afghan news agency, quoting "THE GUARDIAN" reported that the Mojahedin have been selling arms and ammunition to raise money. Some of the opposition Mojahedin commanders had purportedly hinted that they would sell their arms, especially the "Stinger". It also did not hesitate to add that the U.S. government would try to collect the missiles from the Mojahedin but would not succeed. Abdul Haq, one of the commanders of the Mowlawi Khales group had told "THE GUARDIAN" that neither the U.S. nor Pakistan was in a position to collect the arms from the Mojahedin groups.

Abdul Haq's statements were based on sound logic and not on misplaced bravado. Apparently, he understood CIA's arms distribution policy with great clarity. The CIA had two objectives. First, to avoid any direct contact in arms distribution rather than allowing the ISI [Interservices Intelligence of Pakistan] to identify aid beneficiaries. Secondly, to deliver to the Mojahedin only Soviet-made or designed weapons to preclude direct involvement. As the events would show, this was a tragic folly. Obviously, only minimal amounts reached the fighters. The rest were stockpiled for an eventual settling of accounts following the Soviet withdrawal, after the necessary skimming off by the ISI.

In October 1992, the U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad Mr. Nicholas Platt was still asking the Mojahedin to return the sophisticated arms and Stinger missiles as the war was over. It is logical to assume that these were pleadings as apparently, there appeared to be no other alternative. The American anxieties and Ambassador's chagrin are well understood.

Our fears came true in January this year. Eventually, the Mojahedin sold 312 "Stinger" missiles to tribal chiefs in Landi Kotal to overcome financial problems. The weapons have now gone to professional arms dealers. Islamabad has tried to suppress the news as the Mojahedin have been implored to refrain from making a public statement. Pakistani motives behind this step are difficult to fathom. Suppression of such a vital piece of information would point towards complicity in mass murder should a shoot down take place.

The menace now is universal and poses the greatest danger to all kinds of flying operations. The "Stinger" is capable of destroying all types of aircraft operating between 200 meters above surface to about four kms in the sky. It would thus not be difficult to visualise that flying activity in the vicinity of airports and heliports is most vulnerable to an attack. Capable of attaining speeds of Mach 2.2, the lethal "Stinger" poses the gravest danger to aircraft up to a distance of eight kms.

The total missile launcher assembly is 1.5 meters long and weighs a trifle over 15 kg. It can easily fit into a golf bag. An individual of an average stature can fire from the shoulder with ease and alacrity and destroy the target with impunity. Even though the manufacturers have stipulated nearly 150 hours of instruction for attaining proficiency, the Afghan experience speaks of substantially reduced hands on training. The worrisome aspect

is that a trained mercenary out of the international groups a la Afghan war is out of a job and freely available.

A U.S. Army analysis of the Afghan Stinger operation was undertaken a few years ago. This study had indicated that 340 missiles were fired in Afghan war and had destroyed an awesome figure of 269 aircraft of all types. There was a very remarkable kill ratio of 79 percent and for crossing targets it had touched a peak of 90 percent. To keep the arithmetic right it would be sensible to note that twenty of these missiles had found their way to Iran and an ominous figure of thirteen were sold to Qatar. During the Afghan war, the "Stingers" have been known to shoot down MiG-17, MiG-21, MiG-23, SU7/17/20/22/25 fighters and AN-26 transport planes.

The "Strella" and the "Strella 2M" came a close second with a tally of 47 aircraft from 510 firings. The relative simplicity of SAM-7 had been the reason for their widespread distribution all over the world among guerrilla and terrorist groups. Thanks to the availability of the leftover weapons with the Egyptian and the subsequent collusion of the Chinese, large numbers found their way to the Afghan Mojahedin. While there are no reports of large scale sales, they have been disposed of periodically to willing buyers.

The amazing realisation is that the "Stinger" was initially denied to Pakistani war machine only to reach them in a flood later on. This flood will now engulf all adjoining states as the cheaply available missiles percolate to splinter groups all over South Asia, wherever funding is available.

The ISI cannot wash its sins and have the last laugh because they also have the soft underbelly of Sindh to contend with. In India, we have a sound reason to be deeply perturbed as we have no hope in hell to catch small suitcase consignments unless we are superbly alert.

By now all modern Air Forces like ours have devised ways and means to tackle the menace by resorting to tactics and countermeasures but the danger remains, however, small. The greatest danger, despairingly remains to all civil aircraft operations as they would be able to do nothing. This spectre will have to be lived with. We will obviously have to rely on our security systems to spot and fish out the scourge before it strikes. The soft-spots, obviously are Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and perhaps Bombay. For that matter the whole of India is now a battleground. Beware, a heat seeking missile cannot be utilised to combat terrorists but the terrorists are quite capable of employing the weapon to destroy a legitimate government.

Time has come for the American establishment to step in and atone for its past sins. However distant, they are still privy to the "modus operandi" and the shenanigans of the notorious ISI. They are the only ones to control this rogue organisation from further perfidy and senseless killings. They would be smart enough to recall that the drugs which financed the arms supply in Afghanistan eventually hurt the American people. The same now applies to these weapons.

Iran

'Arafat's Fitness To Represent PLO Challenged

NC2704155893 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Apr 93 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "PLO Mission Should Be Handed Over to Real Representatives of Palestinian Nation"]

[Text] Yesterday, Yasir 'Arafat was cited as saying Iran is not an Arab country and has no right to defend the Palestinian issue!

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, 'Arafat said the PLO would not tolerate Iran's interference in Palestine's internal affairs!

'Arafat said Iran had disrupted the so-called Middle East peace talks! 'Arafat's remarks generate discord and are anti-Islamic, but they are not new or surprising:

1. It is clear to everyone that 'Arafat has shared the tribulations and tyranny of the Palestinian nation. But, instead of struggling against Israel, he has been raising slogans and seeking material gains, remarrying. While the Palestinian nation fought the despots in their homeland with stones, he relaxed on the beaches of Tunis with cool drinks, remembering the homeless and the oppressed!

2. In his latest stance, 'Arafat attacked a country that has made the United States, Britain, and the Zionist regime—all those who compromise Palestinian aspirations—a target of its most violent propaganda and political attacks. He attacked Iran merely because he felt he should do something to elicit the attention of the United States and Israel, so that they would at least honor him and give him a reward!

3. Doubtless, his utterances are not welcomed by the Palestinian nation, which opposes compromise by Israel. 'Arafat has lost his prestige and credibility as far as the Palestinian nation is concerned and seeks to obtain a favorable position in the eyes of the new echelons at the White House and the Zionist broker Mubarak.

4. Now that the intifadah has defined its path away from those who seek compromise and wishes to continue its struggle until liberation, Iran's Foreign Ministry should immediately extend an invitation to the real representatives of the Palestinian nation—who have faith in Palestinian aspirations—and hand over the PLO mission to the true ambassadors of the intifadah. 'Arafat is no longer fit to represent the Palestinian Muslims in Iran, the cradle of Islam.

Official on Afghanistan, Nuclear Program, Other Issues

NC2804104593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 15 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

["Text" of an interview with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 14 April]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ABRAR] What has caused the differences among the leaders of Afghan groups? Won't the removal of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud result in new groupings on Afghanistan's political scene?

[Borujerdi] The differences are caused by the struggle for power; the war in Afghanistan is a power struggle and an inability to comprehend realities there, in the region, and in the world. Unfortunately, warring groups are so geared to the struggle against communists that they still consider themselves in the same state, although no communists are being killed in this war. It is the innocent Muslim nation of Afghanistan whose lives and property are being threatened. While this mentality prevails, the chances of the war being terminated are quite remote.

Of course, neighboring countries, such as Iran, have not halted their efforts and can help to end this conflict. Not all the facts were considered in the accord in Islamabad; the forces in the north were not even considered. Many ambiguities remain in the accord, especially concerning the defense ministry and the future role of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

In my meetings with Afghan group leaders, I understood that none of them favor war and that they believe Afghanistan should be rebuilt as soon as possible. Unfortunately, they don't practice what they preach. This also stems from the distrust among them. If they were all broadminded, many of the problems would have been solved and they could easily have divided the portfolios among themselves. Not one of the groups is indispensable and none of the problems can be solved by the use of weapons. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] What about Iran's peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia and the PRC? There is another question about this. Last year, the erstwhile Russian Prime minister announced in parliament that these three countries would cooperate. What is the nature of the cooperation that has and will take place?

[Borujerdi] Iran's relations with the PRC and Russia are quite extensive and have existed for many years, even when Russia was part of the former Soviet Union. Our relations with the PRC were close and multifaceted even during the imposed war and afterward.

An accord was signed in Iran, on the basis of which the Chinese will set up two power plants capable of producing up to 300 megawatts of nuclear energy. Since we are rebuilding, we have an urgent need for electricity, so, naturally, we should use all our resources to ensure we can produce electricity. Every country, Iran included, has a right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

[ABRAR] Since the West disseminates so much negative propaganda, what are the chances that the agreements with Russia and the PRC will not be implemented? Won't these two countries be motivated to renege on their agreements?

[Borujerdi] The West's allegations are not very logical. Any country that can use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will not hesitate to do so. Many developing countries are implementing similar programs. Since the West's allegations are not very logical, I do not believe they will be effective. Large countries, such as the PRC and Russia, will not succumb to pressure; they know Iran will use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes. They obviously anticipated such pressure and despite the propaganda and creation of such a bad atmosphere, they signed the agreements with us.

We hope the agreements will be implemented. I don't know how far our cooperation can go toward becoming trilateral. We have close relations with Beijing and Moscow. I guess it would be stipulated in the agreements that despite the close relations among these three countries, specific trilateral cooperation is not envisaged. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Nearly 36,000 Iranians work in Japan, but recently, we saw Japanese media and officials adopt a negative approach against Iran. What steps has the Iranian Foreign Ministry taken on this? Can any facilities be provided? It is here that the Japanese admit Iranian workers have helped to boost their economy.

[Borujerdi] You know the issue of the presence of Iranian workers in Japan was raised before and the Foreign Ministry made extensive efforts and held talks with Japanese officials on various levels. Deportations of Iranian workers arriving at the airport were stopped. Such a measure would obviously result in any Japanese in Iran being treated the same. The Japanese Government has attended to this issue and ordered the Japanese police to stop any such moves at Tokyo Airport.

It is illegal for foreigners, not only Iranians, to work in Japan, because Japanese labor laws forbid foreigners to work in Japan. So, these people are all working illegally and no open official support can be extended to them. If it was, the Japanese Government's first reaction would be to say that these people's presence is illegal.

Nevertheless, the Iranian Embassy in Tokyo has always sought to maintain contact with Iranians resident in Japan and to ask the government there to resolve the issue of their presence being illegal. It was suggested that they should approve the presence of a specific number of our workers as trainees on technical and vocational programs or by any other name and to permit them to work officially. This has achieved no particular result. Tens of thousands of Iranians work there, but the Japanese Government has chosen to turn a blind eye to this.

In Japan, as in other Western countries, such as Germany, there are groups of rightist extremists who are xenophobic and display their reactions. Recently, they put up posters in the halls of residence of Iranian and other foreign workers and warned them to leave Japan. I do not believe this had anything to do with the Japanese Government.

[ABRAR] How do you assess the situation in the Korean peninsula in view of the recent crisis?

[Borujerdi] North Korea's record and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] were quite appropriate. Its officials consented to inspections of their power plants on six occasions. IAEA officials visited the sites they wanted to check. According to DPRK authorities, subsequent IAEA requests were illegal, because they wanted to see the country's military installations. It is natural for a country to be sensitive about such requests. That country broke away from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty for this reason. I believe that in light of the record of war in the Korean peninsula and the presence of U.S. forces and nuclear arsenals in South Korea, increasing pressure on the DPRK does not help peace and tranquillity in this sensitive region.

All kinds of hasty decisions concerning the DPRK could find this country reacting. If it reacts strongly, there could be a military conflict. This will harm the Korean peninsula, the region, and the world.

So, it appears that negotiations and help in improving relations between the two Koreas without pressure or sanctions from the Security Council will solve the problem. In this way, the DPRK will not be motivated to adopt a harsh position; this will be the best solution.

Iran, which has very close relations with both Koreas, held talks with the two sides. We are optimistic that we can help to defuse the tension and strain in the region and to avert any clash between the two countries. An Iranian delegation, headed by the director general for East Asia, the Far East, and Oceania, is in North Korea. Naturally, we will continue our efforts, because our policy is to eliminate all kinds of conflict and tension.

[ABRAR] The foreign ministers of seven industrial countries are due to meet in Tokyo and as part of their agenda, they could try to assess their relations with Iran. What do you think about this, especially in light of this group's hostile policy against Iran?

[Borujerdi] What has been said about Iran is dictated, especially by the United States. It is unrealistic and nothing more than propaganda. In view of its close ties with Iran, the Japanese Government knows this reality. The Group of Seven session will be in Tokyo, where the Japanese Government is expected to direct it in such a way that it does not affect the close relations between the two countries.

Adviser for UAE Affairs Calls For Talks

LD2804105593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In an interview with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] News Agency, the UAE adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for the opening of direct peaceful talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a move to reconcile differences. That was after a meeting had already taken place in Karachi on 26 April between the UAE adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati. In the meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the two sides emphasized the need for joint efforts toward expansion of bilateral ties.

News sources close to the Islamic Conference Organization ministerial session, having described the meeting between the UAE adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our country's foreign minister as positive, have predicted that the two countries will soon begin high-level talks.

Islamists Oppose Washington Peace Talks

LD2704183193 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Athens, April 27, IRNA—As the Arab parties prepare to begin a new round of talks with the Zionist state in Washington Tuesday, it is important to look at where the negotiations have come from and where they are heading to, from the perspective of the Islamists. The Islamists argue that by accepting the 'land-for- peace' formula as the basis for negotiations the secular Arab regimes and the PLO-backed Palestinians have fallen into the trap of the 'cow thief.'

Once a thief in a village robbed two cows from his neighbour. the man protested and demanded the return of his stolen cows. When he kept on his demands the thief robbed two more cows from him. In the ensuing negotiations and bargain the thief returned two cows and kept the other two.

Islamists insist that it is not only the territories occupied since the 1967 war that are under question, but the whole of Palestine, which was occupied by brutal force and Western-backed trickery, that has to be liberated. They oppose desperate and hasty solutions. If today's generation cannot liberate Palestine the next generation will take up the struggle. In the meantime economic and military pressure against the Zionist state must be stepped up by neighbouring Arab countries and the Islamic world.

Islamists cite the example of Germany which was reunited after four decades, or the case of super-power Soviet Union which crumpled like a cardboard house in a few months after 70 years of Communist rule. No

matter how much outside help, no regime or state can exist for long on a 24-hour war-footing and isolated by its neighbours.

Regimes of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO-backed Palestinians began talks with the Zionist state under the sponsorship of the U.S. and the then Soviet Union in Madrid in October 1991. As the U.S. is the saviour of Israel and not a neutral party any outcome of a dialogue under the aegis of Washington can never be just.

Following eight fruitless rounds, negotiaions were suspended after the Zionists expelled 415 Palestinians from their occupied homeland in December. At first the Arab and Palestinian parties refused to go back to the negotiating table demanding the reepatriation of all deportees, but [words indistinct] to resume the talks abandoning the deportees issue.

Another danger, warn Islamists, is that the Zionists may give to the Palestinians just enough to lure Syria to sign a peace treaty like the Camp David Accord with Egypt. Such a treaty would constitute the acceptance of surrender on the Zionist state's terms and a sell-out of the Palestinian problem.

The issue of al-Quds [Jerusalem] has not been raised in the talks. Separating al-Quds from the rest of the occupied territories is like detaching the brain from the body. Hence Islamists stress that strengthening of intifada and continuation of jihad are the only means of liberating occupied Palestine. The U.S. had promised a solution to the Palestine problem just within one year after the begin of talks in Madrid. 18 months have passed and nobody is predicting any quick solution anymore.

Prospects of Arab-Israeli Negotiations Viewed

LD2704135493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The ninth round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks start in Washington. Everyone believes that the ninth round of the talks is vital for the process, and their success will guarantee future negotiations.

Five months ago the eight round was suspended and the Palestinian side left the talks after 415 Palestinians were exiled to southern Lebanon. After a new administration came to power in Washington, Clinton and his secretary of state tried to start the ninth round as soon as possible and promised that in the future the United States will take a more active stand in the talks. The issue of the Palestinian deportees and the global and regional condemnation of Israel, however, continued and turned into the main obstacle in the path of negotiations. With all the promises that Clinton made to Israel during the election campaign, it was natural that he would not seek to pressure Israel. To bring the Arab side to the negotiation table, however, he was forced to make Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin understand that he has to give some concessions immediately and bring back 100 deportees, as well as reduce the duration of the exiles of the rest by half so that they can all return by the end of the current year.

Initially the PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Palestinian delegation opposed this U.S.-Israeli understanding. After a while, however, the issue of the deportees became a bargaining chip; with its use the PLO obtained a number of concessions which are of course neither major nor important. This includes the participation of a representative from West Jerusalem in the negotiations or the Israeli agreement to return a number of Palestinians who had been exiled since 1967. Therefore, the issue of the Palestinian deportees, which nearly destroyed the foundations of the negotiations, turned into a problem for the Palestinians and—considering the primary conditions for reopening the negotiations—is practically forgotten. [Palestinian team member] Faysal al-Husayni has even called on the deportees in southern Lebanon for their exile term to end and to return to their home.

There is no doubt that the issue of the Palestinian deportees indicated the height of the Islamic trend in Palestinian forces. This could very well be, however, the cause of dangerous issues within the internal relations of the Palestinians and even create a prelude to civil war. Because the ninth round of talks are determining and significant, its supporters and opposer are showing greater sensitivity and adopting a harder stand concerning one other.

In any case, the U.S. administration has applied all kinds of pressure to start the ninth round of talks after a week's delay. U.S. and Israeli officials have been telling the Arab delegations that they if they want any concessions they must come to Washington and start the talks. Considering that the issue of the deported Palestinians has become an item on the agenda of the negotiations, it is not clear how the supporters of the bilateral talks could believe or hope that the outcome of a U.S. peace will guarantee the legitimate rights of Palestinian people.

U.S. Criticized Over Pressure To End Arab Boycott

NC2704164693 Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Apr 93 p 12

[Commentary by M. Mollazadeh: "Zionist Domination"]

[Excerpts] With rare frankness, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah told the London-based AL-HAYAH that the United States and Europe are pressuring Arab countries to terminate the 42-year Arab boycott of Israel. He said there had been some contacts among the Arab countries to discuss the economic boycott against Israel.

The revelation of such an issue, which could generate harsh reaction among the Arab Muslims, is no coincidence. The same circles that pursue these meetings

behind the scenes appear to be testing the water for public opinion in the Arab countries, so that when the Arabs see Israeli-made goods currently marketed under a Western name being sold under Israeli brand names, they should not react negatively.

If the Arab world can't appraise the facts, you can expect Zionist expansionism to increase as it stretches its claws toward the lucrative international consumer markets of the Arabs. This is what the United States and Europe want from their Arab friends.

You can only speculate as to why the Kuwaiti minister revealed this. But the repercussions for officially opening the doors of Arab markets to Israeli goods are clear. There is no doubt Israel faces an acute economic crisis and that the United States directly injects billions of dollars annually and provides military assistance, so buttressing the insolvent economy of its progeny Israel.

The United States faces economic problems and, catering to Israeli needs from U.S. internal sources, has elicited vociferous protests on how long U.S. taxpayers will support the chaotic Israeli economy. Apparently, the conditions have been created to replace U.S. resources with Arab financial resources. The Arab world seems more intimidated than ever and has lost the ability to act in line with its natural interests. The oil war has destroyed the last cells of psychological resistance from among the Arab countries and has put governments in such a position that they see their perpetuation in unquestioning obedience to the United States and its European allies.

Thus, the revelation of backstage contacts to officially open up Arab markets to Israeli goods and to salvage its economy can be considered part of the agreements reached by the Arabs, Zionists, and the United States. If the Arab nations do not watch or react in time, the Arab world will be handed to the enemy and the circle of colonialism will be complete. [passage omitted]

Once Israel controls Arab markets and is not worried about being vulnerable, there will be no need for the Arab rulers. What guarantee is there that the power structure in the Arab world—more backward than in many other countries and rudimentary and primitive—will not be disrupted and replaced by one more in keeping with the United States, Europe, and Israel? Whatever Israel is, its military and power structure are not the same as those of the Arabs; this should not be underestimated.

The smaller tribal Arab countries have only limited capability for social participation; mingling more with Israel will only generate uncontrollable strain and tension. This may not occur in the short term, but would certainly emerge later. The Arab world is scattered socially and differences of opinion are so great that governments have only limited credibility. In such circumstances, rulers who directly serve Israel's expansion cannot hope to remain in power.

The difference between the perceptions of the Arab nations and their governments is great; a hasty move in favor of Israeli interests will not minimize political tension. That no Arab country has consented to economic relations with Israel is due to fear of social crises.

No country would dare to endanger its position until the Arabs reach a collective decision. Remarks by the Kuwaiti foreign minister can be construed as a precursor to an overall Arab agreement that the Arabs may be forced to choose under pressure from the United States and Europe. Clearly, the choice is difficult, but if we are realistic, the Arab world has become so overawed that in the circumstances, it sees no recourse but to bow down to the wishes of the United States.

That the Arabs, after four decades, are forced to accept Israel's economic and military domination is a source of immense regret. But it was to be expected. The gradual distancing of governments from their people's traditional cultural and religious beliefs and world markets absorbing their economies have created such a bond between these governments and the sources of world power that opposition to the wishes of foreign powers will raise the issue of a change in government. This is the fate the Arabs seem to have chosen for themselves. [passage omitted]

The Arab Muslim people have no doubt Israel is their enemy. The last word on this is: Won't the Arab nations who rose up seeing their existence threatened comprehend this danger too? The inertia that prevails in the Arab world will not continue forever. The day will dawn when it will wake up and settle accounts with all those who have toyed with its fate.

Regional Security Cooperation Key to Peace

LD2704133093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The multi-operational maneuvers of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corp (IRGC) started in the waters of the Persian Gulf yesterday. The forces' air, naval, surface-underwater, missile, and electronic warfare capabilities are to be implemented in these maneuvers.

Iran has the largest shoreline in the Persian Gulf and a strategic regional position and is therefore of significance. In particular, IRI's largest vital interests, including ports and oil fields, are in this area.

In this context combat preparation and strengthening the military capability of combat forces, which is carried out regularly through training exercises, is on the agenda of the military forces of the IRI. Furthermore, the preparation of the IRI military forces based on peaceful policies—which take into account the Iranian share in the security and stability of the Persian Gulf—are its natural rights.

The principled IRI policy is based on the multilateral cooperation of the Persian Gulf countries for the maintenance of peace and security. This will bring about the prelude to understanding and tranquility. With the adoption of such policy there will be no longer any need for foreign forces in the region and therefore, the possibility of any foreign threat or intervention will be reduced to its lowest possible level. In these conditions the Persian Gulf region is more than ever in need of tranquility, peace, stability, and the nonintervention of foreign forces. Experience indicates that the presence of foreign forces in the area creates tension in the region and increases security sensitivities.

Despite the fact that for many years foreign powers have been threatening the IRI in various ways, our country has had the lowest military budget in the area. Therefore, military preparation is one of the reasons for the annual military maneuvers of the IRI military forces and is purely for the purpose of exercise and training. It is even possible to hold the exercises with the participation of the regional countries.

It must be taken into account that Iran has many defense capabilities and capacities, and as the most powerful nation in the region, is the biggest supporter and guarder of security in the Persian Gulf. However, IRI has always called for the general participation of regional countries in order to allow the joint formation of a security order. There is no doubt that the best way toward permanent peace is to increase security cooperation between countries in the Persian Gulf region. In that case, the conditions for any foreign intervention and threat will disappear.

Saddam Attempts To Remain in Power Viewed

NC2704145793 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Apr 93 p 16

[Commentary by Ahmad 'Azizi: "Saddam and His Schooling for His Own Perpetuation"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi antiaircraft action with U.S. planes in the exclusion zone at the 36th parallel last Friday [9 April] was described as "an assertion of sovereignty without any sovereignty" and it was stated: "By this action, Saddam is attempting to prove the efficiency of his latest feat to vet the new U.S. administration!"

Saddam has resorted to every possible ploy in his quest to perpetuate his position. According to the news and political sources, he has promised to collaborate with U.S. intelligence agencies and pass on information regarding the revolutionary and principled movements in various countries to the United States. If the embargo is lifted and Washington pardons him, he has promised to procure 70 percent of Iraq's needs from the United States and to offer 60 percent of Iraq's industrial and economic projects to U.S. companies. He has also proposed leaving OPEC, thus creating an oil crisis that would benefit the United States if he were allowed to export oil to that country.

Saddam has also promised to improve his relations with Arab countries and create a rift in their ranks and ostensibly he has gained some success in this regard. Apart from creating conditions for forging relations with Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt, the latest outcome of this effort is that Egyptian President Mubarak commented on Iraq's inability to stem what he described as Iran's expansionism in an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO. All this is for the sake of lifting Western sanctions against Iraq!

To attain these objectives, Saddam has even put Iraq's territorial integrity at stake and in the past two months there have been numerous reports of Iraqi readiness to hold talks with Kurdish leaders, this time until a federal and even independent government is established. The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] said in an interview in Damascus last month that "the Iraqi regime has withdrawn all its forces and administrative personnel from Kurdistan and has severed all economic links between Iraq and Kurdistan. It has informed us that if we announce our independence, it will be the first to recognize us officially!"

Saddam is well aware of the internal doubts and differences in the Western front, as well as of the internal tussle among the various factions comprising the Iraqi national congress regarding a partition of Iraq. The fact is that the Western coalition front led by the United States sees the secession of Iraqi Kurdistan and its transformation into a second Israel as a suitable lever for furthering its regional objectives in the long term and is therefore currently trying to resolve differences on a suitable time for its implementation.

France has specific recommendations in this regard, however. The United States is contemplating safeguarding Arab solidarity against Iran and is not in favor of arousing Islamic-Arab aspirations against such a partition. In addition, the proliferation of the concept of a partition—even at a federal level—can become a catalyst for the establishment of a Shiite government in the south, which the United States certainly does not favor.

In my opinion, Saddam's chances of positively capitalizing on his present ordeal—that is by expediting the partition of Iraq and fanning internal differences in the West in this regard and gaining a position for himself even in a dismembered Iraq—are quite small. However, in the past, Saddam has constantly displayed his prowess in generating crises and political acrobatics for his own perpetuation.

On the basis of the above, in view of the current dichotomy in Western policies, particularly regarding the U.S. administration, we should vigilantly and intensively follow up these moves, especially at this sensitive time. We should also be able to display the appropriate reactions, which are imperative for a wise policy regarding our national security.

Saddam is optimistic that the West is ultimately prepared to tolerate his presence, even in a tiny corner of

Iraq, so he will not spare any effort toward this end. According to the PUK leader, "To remain in power, Saddam is ready to relinquish control over parts of the country."

Nepal

Economic Indicators Show 'Mixed Trends'

BK2704101693 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 15 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14—The Nepalese economy has shown mixed trends as revealed by the analysis of economic indicators available during the first eight months of the current fiscal year 1992-93.

The improvement in price situation, expansion in the export sector, increase in foreign exchange reserve, and decline in the current account can be taken as favorable trends while expansion in the monetary liquidity and the increasing government budget deficit are the negative trends seen during this period, a press release by the Nepal Rastra [State] Bank says.

Last year the consumers' price index of the urban area increased by 20.2 percent and 8.1 percent this year. Similarly, the price of food and beverage group increased by 22.2 percent during the review period last year while this year it increased by 5.9 percent.

Likewise, the price of non-food and services group increased by 16.6 percent last year, while the same increased this year by 13.3 percent.

Due to adverse weather conditions this year, the prices of vegetables, foodstuff, and rice are likely to soar up.

The hike in transportation cost and electricity tariff may also adversely affect the consumers' price index, the release added.

In this background, the annual average price inflation of the consumer price index is expected to reach 10 percent this year which is very low compared to 21 percent of last year.

Meanwhile, foreign trade increased by 15.9 percent to Rs. [rupees] 13.95 billion within eight months of the current fiscal year.

Likewise, exports increased by 37.0 percent to Rs. 2.7290 billion from Rs. 3.7942 billion in the first eight months of the previous fiscal year.

Meanwhile, slackness has taken place in import trade within the review period. Imports increased by 9.2 percent.

Foreign trade deficit reduced by 6.6 percent as a result of the slackness in import trade and improvement in export trade during the review period. The current account deficit (five months) of the current fiscal year decreased to Rs. 1.39 billion from Rs. 3.82 billion in the corresponding period in the previous fiscal year.

Even though there has been a slight reduction in the inflow of funds under the capital account this year, there has been a remarkable improvement in the current capital account and increase in the net unclassified capital inflow. This has resulted in an increase in the balance of payment savings from Rs. 1.96 billion to Rs. 3.13 billion during five months of the current fiscal year.

As a result of all these factors, the foreign exchange reserve increased by 33.3 percent to Rs. 30.37 billion in nine months of the current fiscal year.

The net foreign exchange reserve will be adequate for import requirements of about 10 and a half months taking into consideration the import trends of eight months of the current fiscal year.

Monetary liquidity has expanded to some extent during the review period. The flow of money has increased from 17.7 percent to 18.6 percent. Monetary expansion has taken place as a result of the decline in the increase in capital and net unclassified responsibilities, the press release says. The net domestic assets to the banking system has increased from 8.2 percent to 15.4 percent within eight months of the current fiscal year as compared to the same period of the last fiscal year.

A review of the financial position of the government indicates that total expenditures of His Majesty's Government increased by 37.9 percent this year compared to last year.

The budget deficit has increased by 86 percent and reached Rs. 4.3033 billion this year.

Foreign loans totalling Rs. 2.4928 billion and internal loans totalling Rs. 1.8105 billion is being mobilised to meet the budget deficit.

Pakistan

Portfolios of Nine More Ministers Announced

BK2704155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has announced the portfolios of the members of his Cabinet. According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division in Islamabad today, the ministers and their portfolios are: Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, defense production; Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, petroleum and natural resources; Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, manpower and overseas Pakistanis affairs; Mir Ahmed Nawaz Bugti, special education and social welfare; Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, department of women's affairs; Arbab Ghulam Rahim, political affairs; Makhdoom Tanvirul Hasan Gilani, parliamentary affairs; Zahid Sarfaraz, labor; and Manzoor Ahmed Gichki, management services.

President Appoints New Chief Justice

BK2604151493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The president has appointed Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah as the chief justice of Pakistan on and from the date he takes upon himself the execution of his office as chief justice of Pakistan.

Official Discusses Elections With Mazari

BK2704143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice, retired, Naimuddin, called on the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, at the prime minister's house in Islamabad today. He discussed with the prime minister matters relating to arrangements for the forthcoming elections. The prime minister assured that his government will take all necessary steps for holding free and fair elections.

A JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] delegation led by Allama Hamid Sayeed Qazmi also called on the prime minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari in Islamabad. The delegation discussed with the prime minister the latest political situation and matters of national importance.

Muslim League Supports Army Supervised Elections

BK2704161893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] An all-parties conference will be held Friday [30 April] afternoon in Islamabad. The conference, which will be attended by about 16 parties comprising the People's Democratic Alliance, National Democratic Alliance [NDA], and Islami Jamhoori Mahaz, and some special invitees, will discuss the current political situation and evolve a joint plan of action to deal with it.

The Pakistan Muslim League's Central Council will meet in Islamabad on Thursday, in which the party's new president will be elected. The post had fallen vacant after the demise of Mohammad Khan Junejo. The party's Secretary General Senator Iqbal Ahmad Khan told a news conference in Islamabad today that the meeting will also discuss a five-point agenda, including the formation of a central parliamentary board for granting party tickets to candidates for upcoming elections. The meeting will also set up an election manifesto committee. Answering a question, he supported elections under the supervision of the Army.

The Supreme Council of the NDA will meet in Islamabad Friday morning under the chairmanship of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Assad Chaudhary, a leader of the Pakistan Democratic Party, a constituent party of the NDA, said the meeting will discuss the current political situation and finalize the future plan of action of the alliance.

Paper Calls On President Ishaq Khan To Resign

BK2704000793 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 25 Apr 93 p 5

[Editorial: "Now President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Should Decide His Own Future"]

[Text] The row between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had been going on for a long time. But it turned into a war when the President House insisted on issuing a communique after the Ishaq Khan-Nawaz Sharif meeting. A communique was then issued, but it did not match the status of either of the two. Within the country, opponents of Nawaz Sharif made a hue and cry that this three-line communique did not reflect any understanding between the president and the former prime minister. Foreign media too termed it as an unusual step. Was it an expression of anger and anguish against the policies of Nawaz Sharif or the acknowledgment of displeasure with Nawaz Sharif himself? Such a communique was not expected from an experienced statesman and knowledgeable person like the president. The speech by Nawaz Sharif turned this wrangle into a war, and the announcement by the former speaker on the assembly session caused the instantaneous dissolution of the National Assembly.

Obsessed with his wrath against Nawaz Sharif, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan forgot the disgraceful manner displayed by the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and its leader during the president's address to the joint session of the parliament and established contacts with them. Benazir Bhutto returned from London only after a formal understanding was reached with the president. Faisal Saleh Hayat and some other leaders had already given an announcement concerning Benazir Bhutto's meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. We repeatedly stated in these columns that the fighting between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif would harm both of them and their party, the Pakistan Muslim League [PML], and that it would benefit only the PPP. This is what seems to be happening now. We are not talking at all in terms of financial gains or winning the struggle for power but in terms of personal and party reputation. That is why we said that the two were fighting a war in which not only the loser would definitely lose, but the winner would lose as well. After all, whose prestige is being enhanced by what President Khan said about Nawaz Sharif in his address to the nation, or what the president's supporters are saying about Nawaz Sharif, or what the supporters of Nawaz Sharif are saying about the person of President Khan? Who can say now that he won? The party has suffered heavily. It was a faction of the PML in the past which gained strength because of being the party in power. Now that faction has fragmented into splinter groups. It is amazing that the PML is always being harmed by its own men. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, the PML secretary general, was once making a hue and cry over the party's alliance

with the Awami National Party. Why is he not lamenting his party's alliance with the PPP now?

People saw a glimpse of light in the darkness when the president dissolved the National Assembly. They felt that the political uncertainty caused by the duel between the two giants in the country and the resultant anxiety and lethargy among the people would cease. They pinned their hopes on President Khan's prudence and intelligence. They thought that the step which had been taken after so much controversy must have been taken after profound consideration; this by itself was a matter of satisfaction for them.

Merely three or four days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, the people have started realizing that the hope of satisfaction was only self-deceptive, because the anxiety in the country has heightened instead of decreasing. On the one hand, Nawaz Sharif has started a public relations campaign against the president. The strikes not only divided the trading community, but made traders suffer losses and created difficulties for the people. On the other hand, Gauhar Ayub, the speaker of the dissolved assembly, has filed a writ at the Lahore High Court against the president's decision. The hearing of the writ has already begun and the people are eagerly awaiting its verdict.

Whatever was mentioned earlier is that which has already happened. But we are seriously anxious and worried about something which should not happen. The forces with which the president had entered into understanding on the dissolution of the Nawaz Sharif government are also not coming up to expectation. It was agreed with the president that the provincial assemblies would also be dissolved along with the National Assembly. Benazir Bhutto has demanded that provincial assemblies should also be dissolved as was promised and said that a fair election is not possible with the existing provincial assemblies and local bodies undissolved. She said that they may review their decision if the promise of dissolution of provincial assemblies is not honored and elections are not held within 90 days. If she withdraws her support, then the national government will collapse. The PML's Chattha faction will never be able to hold the government in such a situation.

Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari says that the dissolution of provincial assemblies is a provincial matter. At the same time, he is also saying that he has no objection if the provincial assemblies are maintained after making changes in them. The PPP cannot accept such a situation as it has a major share in the national government.

Talks are also circulating about giving priority to accountability for the elections, despite the president's and the caretaker prime minister's assurances on their timely holding. The Pir of Pagara is a leading figure in propagating this view. Yet another lobby is propagating that the existing electoral list is incomplete. Therefore, there should be a new census, then a new electoral list, and then the elections. They say that the existing electoral list is full of false voters and therefore it cannot provide a basis for fair elections. If their view is accepted, then it will take 18 to 24 months to complete this process. All these arguments have added to the people's anxiety.

A national government is being formed and other political parties have to be included in it. The demands will keep increasing with the number of political parties joining the government. Who else other than the president knows better that this family of "magicians" has not got along for a long time. The chief election commissioner of Pakistan said that he is ready for the elections. But emphasis is being laid on their revision. The country's politics have become so tangled. Given this situation, the objectives for which the president dissolved the National Assembly seem unattainable.

A rumor is also rife about the president that he will not contest the next presidential elections. We feel that he should not contest them. If he does not contest the presidential elections, then he will be left in office only for several months. Is it not better for him to resign right now in order to ease the confrontation? It will at least bring an end to the confrontation between him and the Nawaz Sharif group. But if he does not resign and takes part in the next presidential elections, then history will repeat itself and then Benazir Bhutto might join hands with Nawaz Sharif as the president's adversary, because she has compromised with the president for her own advantage and already started threatening to review the decision if the demands are not met. Asghar Khan, Benazir Bhutto's ally and candidate for the next presidential elections against Ghulam Ishaq Khan, is also saying that the war has not ended with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and that this is only a cease-fire. The post of the president symbolizes the federation. If the person of the president becomes controversial, then it is better for him to resign in order to maintain the sanctity of the presidential position. But if he wants to contest the elections, then he should announce that too so that his supporters feel confident and stability is established in politics. He has to decide his own future. What we would like to say is that whatever decision he has to take, he should take it right now. No one else knows better than he in this regard.

Editorial on Nawaz Sharif's Version of Dismissal

BK2604044193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Mian Nawaz's Version"]

[Text] Former Prime Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif's briefing to senior journalists, intended to provide his side of the story about the dismissal of his government, though necessary and in a way useful, has not cleared all the doubts that the newsmen harboured. Actually Mian Sahib had already covered a good deal of ground on the achievements of his government in his address to the

nation one day before the dissolution of the National Assembly. And even though the President did pick holes in the economic policies of his government in his speech on that fateful night, it is obvious that that was not the real reason for the government's dismissal. This is also borne out by the present Finance Minister's statement about the new government's priorities, which are: 'no change on the economic front'. The reason for what happened had therefore to be different. And one does not have to look far to find that out. It was: a pliant Prime Minister gradually becoming less and less pliant. And that is where most of the questions arise. Mian Sahib said that 'dictation' started coming in from the Presidency soon after he was sworn in. His explanation that he accepted it out of personal deference for the President is hard to believe. A Prime Minister is supposed in decide national issues on merit, on the basis of right or wrong and not on grounds of personal regard for anyone. And if he keeps acquiescing to such pressure for more than two and a half years, that is stretching the 'personal regard' theory a bit far. Mian Sahib's explanation about his stance on the Eighth Amendment is even less convincing. He chose not to challenge it right through the time when he had the two-third majority in the Parliament and thus had the means of getting rid of it. And even though he knew that it was the right thing to do, he did not do it because it would have displeased the President.

He says that it was the President and not he who kept hounding the Opposition. It does not sound plausible to the extent that he himself kept calling the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] an anti- national outfit and a terrorist organisation. Also, he wasted every opportunity, including the one provided by the Speaker National Assembly, to fashion a working relationship with the Opposition. It is said now that while he personally was in favour of a patch-up with the Opposition, it was some of his closest advisors who prevailed upon him to act otherwise. If that was so, then one would be justified in saying that when a Prime Minister opts to act against his own best judgment, he cannot blame others for the consequences. Unable to win the Opposition he lost the only insurance he could have had against the arbitrary use of President's powers. There is a lesson in this not only for him but also for every Prime Minister who seeks to serve after him under the present dispensation. No kitchen cabinet, no surrender of constitional powers, no alienation of the Opposition, no burning of all the boats and last but not the least, no tolerance of the Eighth Amendment from day one.

Radio Reports Sharif Remarks at Rallies

BK2804031893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif addressed rallies at a number of places while leading a procession from Rawalpindi to Peshawar yesterday. He criticized the dissolution of the National Assembly and said the people had given him the mandate to run the government. Awami National Party leaders and workers also joined the procession along its route.

Reports say that addressing a rally in Peshawar, Nawaz Sharif said the dissolution of the National Assembly was unwarranted. He said his case is strong and the people will confirm it.

Court Issues Contempt Notice Against Sharif

BK2504140093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Notices of contempt of court have been issued to a number of Leaguers including Nawaz Sharif for violating the stay order wherein the ML [Muslim League] were bound not to convene any meeting of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] or appoint president or other office bearers. The notices were issued by the court of senior civil judge peshawar on two leaguers who had filed a suit against them on 14. Prior to the meeting of PML, scheduled to be held on Apr 29, the court while staying the said meeting had issued notices to eight respondents.

Assembly Speaker Places Hopes in Court Order

BK2504164093 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Speaker of dissolved National Assembly Gohar Ayub Khan has expressed his confidence that assemblies will be restored through court order. "We have a very strong case," said Gohar Ayub.

Talking to the Frontier Post, Gohar Ayub said the dissolution of the assemblies was a severe blow to democracy and the political system in the country. "Dissolution of assemblies is based on ridiculous charges, which can't justify president's action."

He said that being custodian of the National Assembly, he must strive for its restoration and take measures to restore the dignity and honour of the house.

The courts enjoy full confidence of the masses and he is also certain that there will be a decision in his favour, Gohar Ayub said and added: "We have left no loophole. We have filed the case to competent authority, and have not delayed it. Surely the verdict will be in our favour," he added.

When his attention was drawn to the other cases filed on the dissolution of assemblies, Gohar Ayub replied that there were certain lacunae in the petitions filed earlier. In 1988, neither the speaker nor the leader of the opposition went to the court. The case was filed after much delay, he added.

Replying to a question that the case filed by Salman Taseer and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed against Operation Midnight Jackal was dismissed since the plaintiffs didn't

pursue the case, Gohar said, "I am leaving for Lahore on May 2 and the proceedings will start on 3rd. I will remain in Lahore and will be present in the court till the time we don't have a verdict."

"I have to take care of the dignity and honour of the assemblies, since its my duty. I have gone to the high court for the restoration of the honour of these assemblies I will knock at every door," a confident Gohar told.

Senate Chairman Summons House To Meet 3 May

BK2504113693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The Senate chairman has summoned the house to meet in Islamabad on the 3d of next month in exercise of his constitutional powers. The session has been requisitioned by 22 members of the Senate.

Official Stresses Need for Grand Party Alliance

BK2304145193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, April 22—Maulana Fazlur Rahman [F] Secretary General, JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islami] has stressed the need for a grand alliance of religious parties to get due representation and true reflectionn of the aspirations of masses in the coming elections.

In an interview with APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], the JUI leader said he had extended an invitation to Jamiat-i-Islami, which was turned down by their Shura.

He said there is a need to have grand alliance among the ranks and filed of all the Islamist parties. However, he said, no concrete work in this connection had been done so far.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman said his party delegation had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Tuesday, while they called on Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari on Wednesday and explained to him the party stance on the political situation.

The JUI, he said, ruled out the possibility of free and fair elections in the absence of caretaker provincial governments. The Prime Minister, he said, had no objection in principle over the demand for dissolution of the provincial assemblies but they were faced with some problems, he observed.

All the three major political alliances of the country were demanding dissolution of provincial assemblies. He especially mentioned Balochistan, which he alleged had callously plundered public money.

Regarding law and order situation in Sindh, he said, practically even today it was in the hands of armed forces, "while the charge- sheet against the central government holds good for all the provincial governments". He demanded immediate dissolution of the provincial governments.

JUI (F) chief said all the political parties were unamimous over timely holding of free and fair elections. He hoped the present government will fulfil its commitment in this regard.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman said, a new set-up was working, while cabinet has yet to be finalised. He said "we are busy in political dialogue with the government and the opposition parties about the future course of action."

Maulana Abdullah Darkhwasti, Amir of JUI has convened an emergency meeting of the party to meet Thursday night in Khanpur (Bahawalpur) to discuss various ticklish issues.

He denied any offer from the government to nominate party representatives for the cabinet. He said the meetings with the President and Prime Minister were not to seek represenation in the cabinet. Also, no offer has so far been made. This is up to the President and the Prime Minister to contact parties and give them nomination for the cabinet slots in a bid to have a true national government.

Mazari Attends Briefing on 'Internal Security'

BK2704123493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, today visited General Headquarters in Ralwapindi. He discussed with the chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed, matters relating to common interest. Later, the prime minister attended a high-level briefing. It focused mainly on internal security and overall border situation.

JI Rejects Dissolution of National Assembly

BK2304165593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Lahore, April 22—Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] Pakistan, has criticised the dissolution of the National Assembly and maintained that it had been done merely to protect self-interests.

Adopting a resolution during an emergency meeting of its Central Executive Body, was presided ovr by Qazi Hussein Ahmed here last night, the JI maintained that the Care-taker Government was composed of the men of the party the government of which democratic institutions with a single stroke of pen [sentence as published]. The reason of country's political instability was the absence of democratic institutions and corruption of profesional politicains.

It maintained that during the past 40 years the same reasons had been given for packing up the democratic institutions. But there was no logic to dismiss Nawaz

government. The stay was taken to protect self interests. The matters of the 8th amendment or the next presidential candidate of the existing President were related to politics and thus must had been solved politically. In fact, these matters had been resolved to some extent. But, it appeared that the President had already decided to sack the former Prime Minister. If the President had a charge sheet against Nawaz Sharif he should have removed him through the Assembly.

According to the Jamaat-i-Islami, the members of the Caretaker government were these the Government of whom was dismissed only two and a half years ago. This party was the one which had made the entire country to protest over its rigging of the 1977 elections. At the time of the dismissal of the Nawaz Government, the political leaders who were sitting in the President's House were the same persons who were still facing references of corruption.

The JI was of the view that the country was facing deep crises merely due to the unprincipled politics also played by the former Prime Minister's camp. The former government had made serious, had earlier been dismissed by the President [sentence as published]. It also blamed the sacked Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and his government for disrupting the democratic process.

The JI condemned that during a short span of five years, the President had dissolved there assemblies by using his discretionary powers. It was sad to note that foul play had been played against the political system of the country for the past 40 years during which a single man used to pack up the mistakes from the very outset. It not only abandoned the manifesto of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] but also betrayed its component parties. It failed to honour its promise of introducing Islamic order in the country. It used to take decisions on important national affairs without the consent of the Assembly. It used abusive language against the opposition and did not strengthen the democratic institutions. At last it fell prey to its own wrong policies.

The JI held President, former Prime Minister and the opposition equally responsible for 'derailing' the democracy. Now under the given circumstances, it was being feared that the country would be driven back to 1958, endangering the very being of the Constitution. Now, it was the responsibility of every patriotic Pakistani to come forward and salvage the country and the nation.

The JI appealed to the dismissed government to adopt democratic and Constitution methods for getting redressed its grievances and refrain from taking any step that could bring more serious crisis. It should wait for the decision of the Court.

The JI demanded that it should immediately be explained that whether the provincial assemblies would be dissolved. Further, the care-taker government should be composed of former judges of High and Supreme Courts, and technocrats. It opined that the best way of solving the political matters was the following of the Consitutional. At this critical juncture, the Jamaat-i-Islami would come forward to provide leadership to the nation.

Court Admits Petition Against Dissolution

BK2804031693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] A division bench of the Balochistan High Court yesterday admitted for hearing a constitutional petition against the dissolution of the National Assembly. The bench after admitting the petition issued notices to the concerned sides. The petition has been filed by a local lawyer Aurangzeb Mir. The bench is comprised of Mr Justice Munnawar Ahmed Mirza, Balochistan High Court chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Anirul Malik Mehdi.

Views on Dissolution of Provincial Assemblies

PPP, PML on Dissolution

BK2404104493 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 93 pp 1, 16

[By Faraz Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, April 23—The Federal Minister for Finance, Sardar Farooq Khan Leghari, disclosed on Friday that in the detailed consulations between PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] before the dissolution of NA [National Assembly] an understanding was reached that both the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies would be dissolved.

"The understanding given to us at the pre-dissolution meetings was that not only the National Assembly but also the provincial assemblies will be dissolved", he told a Press conference on Friday.

"Our party position were massively rigged and Provincial Assemblies ought to go as well. So "We are seeking a fresh mandate and a new beginning", he said.

Mr Leghari was confident that the dissolution of Provincial Assemblies would be done shortly.

When asked whether the PPP would withdraw its support to the interim government if the provincial assemblies were not dissolved, he said: "We will review the situation at the Central Executive Committee meeting of the party and will see what has to be done".

He said "We are looking forward to fair, free and impartial elections, this is not possible in the presence of the present provincial assemblies."

Mr Leghari reiterated the long standing demand of the Pakistan People's Party regarding the [word indistinct] caretaker government would like to reduce the budgetary deficit. "The previous government acted in a most irresponsible manner. They assured IMF that deficit

would be reduced to 4.8 percent, but did not honour their commandment and preferred to spend like Mughal Emperors."

He observed that the fiscal growth rate remained "bad" during the past nine months, amid negative growth signs on the agriculture sector. "The cotton virus has not been tackled for the past three years. Not only because there's recession in the world market but because there was a lack of will in the previous government", he added.

Responding to a question, he said the caretaker government did not intend to victimise the leaders of previous regime, but added: "We would like to see the law taking its due course against all those accused of corruption. But such cases must not be dealt by special courts."

He said Pakistan did not need projects like motorway and bullet trains as it needed more major link roads and improvement of railway, but that "does not mean that we will abandon all the projects starts by the previous government". He said the Cabinet was yet to discuss these issues in detail.

Replying to a question about the possibility of foreign investment during the time caretakers will stay in power, he claimed that a number of foreign investors had been seeking meeting with him since he took oath as minister.

Responding to another question about the unrest prevailing among traders and industrialists in Punjab and Karachi, he said: "I think they will change their view very soon. The call for strike has been given by a politically motivated faction of business community. We will inform them about our policies properly and they should know that we are going to make the private sector a leading vehicle."

Bhutto To Press for Dissolution

BK2704104393 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Islamabad, April 26—Co-Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Ms Benazir Bhutto on Monday declared she would take up the issue of dissolution of provincial assemblies at the all parties conference (APC) if these were not dissolved as pledged by the President.

"We were given a firm assurance at the time of dissolution of the National Assembly that Provincial Assemblies will also be dissolved" she told a group of newsmen at Islamabad airport on her arrival from Karachi here on Monday evening.

If the National Assembly could be dissolved on the basis of resignations of the opposition members then why could the provincial assemblies not be dissolved on the same ground, she said.

She said the members of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly had already handed over resignations to her.

"Some political orphans are creating hurdles in the dissolution of the provincial assemblies", she said, regretting that delay in the dissolution was also affecting the recently established understanding between the Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League.

Ms Benazir Bhutto however avoided to give a specific deadline for withdrawing her party from the interim caretaker government if the commitment with regard to the dissolution of provincial assemblies was not fulfilled. However, she disclosed that the PDA [People's Democratic Assembly] members had given resignations only on a firm commitment that the provincial assemblies would also be dissolved.

Referring to the recent incidents of violence in the Punjab assembly, she said it was very unfortunate that when the country was facing grave external threats such incidents were happening.

With regard to the change of government in Punjab she said it could be either termed horse-trading or proceedings of a political stock exchange.

The manner in which the legislators were 'kidnapped' and brought to federal capital in a chartered plane, she said, could not be called 'fair play.'

She wondered how overnight the two-third majority enjoyed by Ghulam Haider Wyne turned against him. "Mr. Wattoo must have some kind of a magic wand" she said, adding that there would have been either some kind of temptation or pressure that the provincial legislators changed their loyalties overnight.

Replying to a question about the accountability of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif and members of his cabinet, she said, "My personal opinion is that it should be left to the next elected government. I do not say that those who have looted and plundered the national wealth should be spared, but the accountability before election would be mistaken for political victimisation."

She said that the next elected government should conduct an across the board accountability without any fear or favour.

"First and foremost priority for the present caretaker government should be holding of fair and free elections within the 90 days", she said. Constitution of an independent Election Commission, dissolution of provincial assemblies and elections under direct supervision of the Army, she said, were the three major steps which were imperative for the holding of fair and free elections.

When asked whether she foresaw any chance of martial law, she referred to a recent statement of Chief of the Army Staff [COAS], General Abdul Waheed. She said the COAS had allayed the fears of martial law.

Responding to another question about the threat of Pakistan being delcared a terrorist state, she said it was a grave situation and called for internal stability in order to cope with it in an appropriate manner.

She said the United States had asked for certain steps before June this year. She was not aware as to what had already been done by the concerned quarters.

She denied that she had been asked to play some role in this regard.

Zaki: All 'Suspect Elements' To Be Expelled

NC2704211593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, 27 Apr (MENA)—Akram Zaki, secretary general of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, has affirmed that his country will expel all suspect elements now in Peshawar who commit illegal acts against some fraternal Islamic countries.

In an interview with MENA, he said that Pakistan has conducted a comprehensive survey of the Peshawar area and identified those who commit illegal acts. He added that the Pakistani Government has set a definite time limit for these people to leave the country. Those who carry out legitimate services for the Afghan refugees and legally reside in Peshawar can stay, he noted.

Asked about the possibility of Pakistan being listed among the countries which encourage terrorism, Akram said: This has not happened so far, but India accuses us daily and fabricates reasons to accuse my country of encouraging terrorism. An Indian leader even said that if Pakistan could be placed on the terrorist countries list, it would amount to a war victory without fighting.

Commenting on Egyptian-Pakistani relations, he said that recently some raised the issue of those men who returned from Afghanistan, but the misunderstanding was cleared up when the former Pakistani prime minister met President Mubarak in Germany and the differences were reconciled. He added: We have close ties with Egypt and hope they will grow in all fields.

On Pakistan's relations with the United States, he noted that his country has a long history of good relations with the United States with intermittent ups and downs, and now Pakistan is trying to improve relations.

On the internal situation in Pakistan, he said elections will be held on 14 July according to the constitution and after the elections a new government will be formed.

Indian Accusations on Bombay Blasts Assailed

BK2304134393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "There is something sinister about Chavan's statement"; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan Wednesday held Pakistan responsible for the March 12 Bombay blasts. In a prepared statement on the subject in the Lok Sabha he claimed that "the result of the inquiries so far indicate Pakistan's organised support and involvement in the planning and execution of the series of bomb blasts which took place in Bombay. The Home Minister claimed that a certain Memon, the key figure behind the blasts, organised and motivated the saboteurs near Islamabad in February this year and that Memon and his other accomplices were "received at Islamabad airport and driven off in a covered vehicle without going through the immigration formalities", during their trips to Pakistan from Dubayy on PIA [Pakistan International Airways] flights during February last prior to the Bombay blasts.

The Indian Home Minister's allegation of Pakistan's involvement came five days after the Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said in Lukhnow that Indian investigations had not provided any concrete proof of Pakistan's involvement in the blasts.

When some Indian political leaders notably the Hindu extremists made a cock and bull story about Pakistan being behind the blasts, Islambad came out with such convincing and cogent explanations to expose the hollowness of these allegations that New Delhi had no legs to stand on. Pakistan asked, for instance, as to why India delayed by one week the transmission of information about the terrorists allegedly travelling to Pakistan from Dubayy. If India knew their travel plans and had asked Pakistan well in time they cold have been arrested. Pakistan also then offered all assistance in apprehending the culprits if they were in Pakistan as was being alleged. When the allegations did not stick Dinesh Singh had to admit that Pakistan was not involved.

So what is the possible explanation for Chavan's volte face? Between Dinesh Singh's and Chavan's statements a number of political developments have taken place which may have something to do with the renewed allegations by India. The inconclusive meeting between former minister Chaudhary Nisar with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington in which the US officials made it clear that Pakistan had not yet been cleared of the charge of terrorism is also a significant development.

When US Ambassador in Islambad Mr. Monjo recently said that US was not convinced that Pakistan was not providing material support to the Kashmiris, many in Pakistan suspected that the bogey of terrorism was being raised by the US to pressure Pakistan to give up its nuclear programme.

Is a new Washington-New Delhi axis in the making against Pakistna's nuclear programme behind the facde of terrorism? Mr. Chavan's statement at a time of political uncertainly in Islamabad is a significant pointer which the manipulators of ower politics here can't ignore.

Charges of Involvement 'Frivolous'

BK2604045593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A Frivolous Charge"]

[Text] Indian Interior Minister S.B. Chavan has stated in the Indian Parliament that investigations carried out by Indian authorities have indicated Pakistan's involvement in the March 12 bomb blasts in Bombay. This has been strongly refuted by a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman. Mr. Chavan's statement has come within a week of another made by Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh saying that there was no proof of Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay blasts. The spokesman said such contradictory statements by Indian Ministers on the subject go to indicate that some of them are out to malign Pakistan by voicing baseless allegations.

It seems some Indian leaders are bent upon using their age-old ploy of shifting the blame on Pakistan to cover up their failures and inadequacies. It can well be said that in order to divert world attention from the wrongdoings of the Hindu communalists and their programme of "ethnic cleansing" of the Indian Muslims, the authorities there are trying to implicate Pakistan in the Bombay bomb blasts. They conveniently forget that it was only recently that nearly two thousand Muslims were massacred in Bombay by Hindu extremists. Pakistan has repeatedly said that it is ready to cooperate fully in enquiries relating to the criminals involved in the Bombay bomb blasts. Instructions were issued to all security agencies of the country to take immediate steps to investigate all recent arrivals from Dubayy to apprehend those alleged to be involved if they had indeed travelled to Pakistan. A high level task force was established to speed up investigations and a proposal was made to India that senior officials of the Ministries of Interior/Home of the two countries should meet to hold comprehensive discussions on the subject. There is still no response from the Indian side. The fact is that Indian investigators are still probing for a clue to those behind the Bombay blasts. The police officials of the city have admitted that they have made no substantial progress in solving the mystery. Under the circumstances to contend that Pakistan masterminded this horrific incident in Bombay is preposterous, to say the least. It is a habit with India to externalise its internal problems. If New Delhi sincerely wants to smoothen its relations with Pakistan, it should desist from such a course of action. Relations between the two countries are not very happy at the moment, but they should not be allowed to deteriorate by slanderous accusations against Pakistan.

Japan, Russia Pledge Continued Cooperation

BK2604141293 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 93 p 11

[Excerpts] Islamabad, April 25—Japan has given categorical assurance that it would continue its close and friendly cooperation with Pakistan in various spheres irrespective of change of the Government.

Japanese Ambassador in Islamabad Kunio Muraoka gave this assurance at a meeting with Kabir Ali Wasti, Secretary-General, Muslim league (Qasim group), and Secretary, Finance, PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], here on Sunday. [passage omitted]

Japanese Ambassador told Wasti that he was convinced that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had used his constitutional powers to dissolve the National Assembly. He said that they were convinced that elections would be held on schedule and duly elected democratic government would be formed.

As far as Japanese governments' cooperation with Pakistan is concerned, the ambassador said "We are least interested in change of government. We are rather with people of Pakistan."

Earlier, Wasti had a meeting with senior Russian diplomat Valeriy Fomin, who also reaffirmed Russian Federation's desire to have friendly relations with Pakistan.

He said that Russia would be glad to receive Caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari if he had time to visit Russia at an early date.

Mr. Wasti said that Japanese Ambassador showed his happiness and satisfaction over the democratic change in radio and TV policy.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Assails Opposition Slander Tactics

BK2704120493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1002 GMT 27 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item by A.S. Fernado in Kandy; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa said Monday that some opposition leaders had stooped to the low level of insinuating that he was a murderer as part of their evil design to destroy him politically.

"They have nothing concrete to hit me with. Their pastime is to abuse me, villify me in most deregatory terms. Whenever someone is killed, they are quick to insinuate that I am behind the crime. When Rajiv Gandhi was killed, they pointed the finger of accusation at me. What a clever man, I am according to them. They spared me only when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated. I wonder whether they would saddle me with the responsibility for the recent murder of Nelson Mandela's Lieutenant", the president added. He invited those levelling murder charges at him to go before the mirror to have a good look at the killers of DUNF's [Democratic United National Front] leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Addressing a mammoth public rally held opposite the Central Market in Kandy to launch the UNP's [United National Party] PC [Provincial Council] elections campaign, a visibly angry president lashed out at his political

opponents, who, he charged, were exploiting the unfortunate assassination of Mr. Athulathmudali to sling mud at the government and at him personally.

An unusually aggressive president said in his hour-long speech: "If they were so keen on finding Lalith's murderer, they could have scoured the area immediately after the crime. If they did so, they would have soon come across the body of the young assassin which lay on a spot not far away from the scene of tragedy".

The president added: "They are not interested in finding out the assassin. They are no longer interested in Lalith either. They are keen only on slandering Premadasa, assassinating his character. I must say that assassinating the character of an innocent person is a more heinous crime than gunning him down in cold blood. My strength of character, my unblemished character is the only precious thing I possess today. They are assassinating it without any scruples. The truth about Lalith's assassination will come to light sooner or later".

"The DUNF had no leader and Lalith was picked for the rotating leadership one year after the formation of the front. I have no contest with Lalith at any time. In fact, he was never my rival. I invite those who looked on Lalith as a formidable rival to find out Lalith's minimaruwo (murderers). I wish to tell Gamini the same thing. He seems to grieve so much over Lalith's death ... I wish to ask him who stands to gain from Lalith's death and who is at a disadvantage because of his death.

"Lalith never came for a contest with me. When former president J.R. Jayewardene was to step down, the party had to pick a successor to him. I, on that occasion categorically said that I was not in the running for the party leadership and I was prepared to back anyone chosen for the position.

Lalith and Gamini were engaged in a tussle to propose my name as the party's presidential candidate. The scramble became so undignified that the former persident had to interfere—to make peace saying: "I will propose Mr. Premadasa's name as the outgoing leader. You Lalith and Gamini may jointly second it". That joint seconding, I think, is something unprecedented. They only vied with each other to second my name and they were never in the running as my rivals", the president explained.

The president told the rally that as soon as he learnt about the assassination of the DUNF leader, he directed the defence secretary and the IGP [Inspector General of Police] to mobilise the state machinery at its maximum efficiency to bring the culprits to book.

LTTE Suspected in Death of Former Minister

BK2704094293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0735 GMT 27 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—A special squad of detectives from Scotland Yard arrived in Colombo Monday from London to probe the assassination of DUNF [Democratic United National Front] leader and former Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali, who was assassinated by a suspect LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gunman, as he was addressing a Provincial Councils election rally on Friday night at the Kirullapone Stadium in Colombo, police sources told LANKAPUVATH.

The Scotland Yard team comprising a detective superintendent Alec Edward, detective inspectors Dave Shipperlee and Dr. Dick Shephered, and detective sergeant Ron Turnbull was flown down on a request made by the Sri Lankan Government to the British Government on the directions of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Meanwhile, police said that the modus operandi employed for Mr. Athulathmudali's slaying was text book LTTE terrorism. An identity card which was found in the possession of the alleged assassin whose body was found in a cul-de-sac beside a cooperative packeting centre at Mugalan Mawatha Kirullapone 100 yards from the scene of the crime, carried the name Appiah Balakrishnan of Kokkuvil in Manipay, Jaffna with a photograph identical to that of the dead man.

According to the post mortem findings of Colombo's judicial medical officer Dr. L.B.L. De Alwis, the suspect LTTE gunman had died of cyanide poisoning, the trade mark of an LTTE terrorist on a suicide mission.

The investigators ruled out any possibility of the cyanide being forced into the suspect gunman's mouth.

The investigators also point out that the manner in which the killer mingled with the crowd present at the rally at the Kirullapone Stadium and suddenly rushed up to within five feet and fired at Mr. Athulathmudali at point blank range fatally wounding him was typical of an LTTE murderer.

Police sources also said that the .9 mm pistol, which was found in the hands of the suspect gunman, was a favourite LTTE weapon and widely used by the terrorist organization.

The modus operandi employed also points to Mr. Athulathmudali's slaying as planned by none other than the LTTE'S intelligence chief Pottu Amman, who was responsible for allegedly planning assassinations of former Deputy Minister of Defence General Ranjan Wijeratne, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lanka's Northern Commander General Denzil Kobbekaduwa and nine other senior military officers, Sri Lanka's Navy Chief Admiral Clancy Fernando and several other important persons.

Police investigators pointed out that although the LTTE had reportedly denied assassinating Mr. Athulathmudali, they had also denied assassinating the others.

However, LTTE terrorists had pleaded guilty in Sri Lanka's courts to complicity in the murder of General Ranjan Wijeratne and the JOC [Joint Operations Command] bombing, while LTTE leader Prabhakaran and his intelligence chief Pottu Amman were accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination trial.

In addition, the official LTTE newspaper had carried photographs of terrorist leader Prabharakan presenting prizes to the terrorists who had executed the bomb explosion in which Gen. Kobbekaduwa and nine others were killed at a rally in Kayts, Jaffna last August.

Police said Mr. Athulathmudali, as a former deputy minister of defence who spearheaded the operations against the LTTE for several years, an internationally known personality and a leading Sri Lankan politician was a prime target for the LTTE [sentence as received].

Tension Mounts Before Funeral

BK2704134693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 27 (AFP)—Hundreds of police poured into the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Tuesday as tension mounted ahead of the funeral of assassinated opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Additional constables were being drawn from outside the city to reinforce scores of anti-riot squads and the thousands of police already maintaining a maximum alert in the capital, a defence source said.

Opposition parties have called for a work stoppage on the day of Athulathmudali's cremation at the main Colombo General Cemetery here Wednesday as supporters put up white flags across the country to mourn the death.

Hundreds of thousands of people have already paid their respects to the slain leader.

A spokesman for Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) said the party was still talking to the government about a request for Army deployment inside the cemetery for crowd control.

"We are still negotiating with the government on this issue... We have said we don't have faith in the police," a party official said. The DUNF claims the government murdered Athulathmudali and blames the police for not protecting him.

Opposition parties have also demanded weapons for their candidates at the May 17 provincial council elections and called for President Ranasinghe Premadasa's immediate resignation.

Eight opposition parties said they needed 417 weapons for the protection of their leaders and candidates who have been subjected to attacks and threats from government politicians and the police.

A radical leftist group, the New Equal Society Party (NSSP), said Premadasa should take full responsibility for Athulathmudali's slaying by resigning and holding general elections.

Premadasa told a public rally in central Kandy region Monday that his opponents were attempting to assassinate his character by accusing him of murdering Athulathmudali.

"They have nothing concrete to hit me with. Their pastime is to abuse me, vilify me in most deregatory terms. Whenever someone is killed, they are quick to insinuate that I am behind the crime.

"When Rajiv Gandhi was killed they pointed the finger of accusation at me. What a clever man I am according to them," Premadasa said, adding that if the opposition was keen on finding the assassin they should look in the mirror.

However, the opposition parties have been united in blaming the government for the murder.

"It is abundantly clear that no challenger to this UNP (ruling United National Party) government will survive. The leader of any serious and large opposition will be mowed down notwithstanding even the creed and ideology being the same," the NSSP said in a statement.

The NSSP also called for a work stoppage on the day of the funeral while other opposition parties repeatedly called for restraint and peace, arguing that an outbreak of violence might provoke the government to postpone elections.

State media have warned that remnants of a crushed anti- government Sinhalese group called the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] might instigate violence at Athulathmudali's funeral. Meanwhile, a magisterial inquiry into the assassination was told here Tuesday that police had been unable to establish the identity of the killer of Athulathmudali, who was national security minister from 1984 to 1989.

Police had earlier claimed that the body of a man they found near the site where Athilathmudali was shot dead Friday was the assassin and identified him as a Tamil.

The Colombo magistrate was told Tuesday that the identity card found on the young man was a forgery. Police have blamed the dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who have already denied involvement.

A four-member team from Britain's Scotland Yard arrived here Monday to asssist Sri lankan investigators handling the case.